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A NOVEL,

FOUNDED ON FACTS.

BY H. M. MORIARTY,

Authoress of "Brighton in an Uproar," &c. &c. &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Domestic Happiness, thou only bliss
Of Paradise that hast surviv'd the Fall!

• • • • •
Thou art the nurse of Virtue! • • •

• • • • •
Thou art not known where Pleasure is ador'd;
That reeling goddess with the zoneless waste
And wand'ring eyes, still leaning on the arm
Of Novelty, her fickle, frail support:
For thou art meek and constant, hating change,
And finding in the calm of truth-tied love
Joys that her stormy raptures never yield.
Forsaking thee, what shipwreck have we made
Of honour, dignity, and fair renown!

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR AND SOLD BY THE AUTHORESS,
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Street (corner of Newman Street); and may
be had of all Booksellers.

1812.

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To the Public.

HAVING more than once appeared before an indulgent tribunal, my timidity on the present occasion is lessened by my former success; and my humble talents have been once more called into action by the urgent claims of four fatherless children, to whom I am not a little ambitious of giv-

McLaughlin Dec. 53

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ing an education suitable to the rank of their parent who is now no more.

I throw myself again, therefore, on the clemency of the Critics. The title which I have assumed for my present performance will, perhaps, startle some Novel readers.--- It may be necessary, however, thus early to make a solemn protestation of my innocence of all intention to encourage vice or immorality in the following pages; on the contrary, my Readers will rise from the

perusal of the Work, satisfied, as I presume to hope, that my best endeavours have been used to promote the cause of Virtue, and to point out the true basis of Domestic Felicity.

To those who object to the eccentricity of my title, I would reply in the words of our incomparable Bard, when speaking of adversity :

“ ——— the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in its head.”

I shall now take my leave ;
and I trust that, if I am doom-

ed to pass the ordeal of the Court of Criticism, the verdict which condemns me will be special,---GUILTY of publishing----*but not with a criminal intention !*

H. M. MORIARTY.

April, 1812.

CRIM. CON.

CHAP. I.

No more remains, but now a trusty band
Must ever at the pump industrious stand,
And while with us the rest attend to wear,
Two skilful seamen to the helm repair !
O source of life, our refuge and our stay !
Whose voice the warring elements obey,
On thy supreme assistance we rely,
Thy mercy supplicate, if doom'd to die.
Perhaps this storm is sent, with healing breath,
From neighb'ring shores to scourge disease and death :
'Tis ours on thine unerring laws to trust ;
With thee, great Lord ! whatever is, is just.

As Mr. Moundfort was observing
the return of some boats which had
been sent in the hope of saving the car-
go of a merchantman which had been

recently wrecked, his attention was arrested by the piercing sighs of a genteel-looking young man. The stranger made the most eager inquiries respecting the success of those persons, who had even risked their lives in expectation of saving the property of others; but, when he learned that their exertions had proved of no avail, he struck his forehead in a frantic manner, and in evident agony quitted a spot in which his peace of mind was apparently buried.

Mr. Moundfort was shocked at seeing a fellow-creature in such misery: an involuntary emotion prompted him to follow the object which had so powerfully interested his feelings: he walked at a distance, and was pondering how he could proffer his services to the unhappy stranger, without appearing officious, or wounding those feelings which were already so lacerated; but, on perceiving the young man take some-

thing from his pocket, he quickened his pace, and fortunately arrived in time to strike from his hand a pistol.

“ Is it thus,” said Mr. Moundfort, “ that a christian presumes to rush into the presence of his Maker ? It is heaven’s prerogative to recal what first it graciously bestowed,—thy breath ; and it is man’s duty patiently to await his doom, not to take from the Supreme Disposer of all human events his instruments of death. Our Great Father is just ; and the same power which puts man’s fortitude to the severest trials, by the various afflictions to which humanity is heir, mercifully lends religion as a shield, which will guard and support us in every situation. Why, then, risk by one rash act to forfeit the kingdom of heaven ? For where is the crime equal to self-murder ? or what act of cowardice can we compare with it ? Rest assured that the truly brave, by patience and

exertion, endeavour to overcome difficulties ; but it is the weak and pusillanimous only who sink under them. Have you, then, no link to attach you to the chain of life? Are you not blessed with some relative who will deplore your loss? No affectionate mother nor sister who are anxious for your safety? or a wife, whose happiness is interwoven with your existence?"

Mr. Moundfort had scarcely concluded the sentence when the stranger, clasping his hands, exclaimed, with vehemence, "I have a wife!—O God!" and sunk senseless on the ground.

Some hours elapsed before the unhappy man shewed any symptoms of returning animation, during which period he had been removed to a neighbouring cottage, and proper means used for his recovery. Mr. Moundfort dismissed every one from the chamber, when he thus addressed the stranger :

“Sir, to say that the action which introduced me to your acquaintance impresses me with a favourable opinion of your morals, would be telling a falsehood; but, from whatever cause your rashness proceeded, I pity you. If pecuniary difficulties tempted you to forget your religious and moral duties, I have the inclination and the means of assisting you; if your rashness proceeded from any other cause, confide in me, and I pledge you my word that I will only use such confidence to serve you; for, although I abhor vice, I consider it an indispensable duty to my Maker, and to society, to devote my time and property to lead the repentant sinner to the path of righteousness.”

“Alas! Sir,” feebly articulated the stranger, “despair alone induced me to seek refuge in death from the calamities which pursue me. In the ship which

was wrecked sunk all which I possessed. My beloved wife is now laying in a fisherman's hut, sick, almost naked, and starving; and I am destitute of the power of even procuring for her the common necessities of life!"

"Let me hasten, then," replied Mr. Moundfort, "to procure for your wife whatever she requires. But for whom must I ask?"

"The fisherman is named Jerome; and, if you inquire for Mrs. Dalrymple, you will be conducted to my wife. But let me entreat, Sir, that you will not divulge how our acquaintance commenced, and I hope in a few hours to be sufficiently composed to join you."

The benevolent Mr. Moundfort immediately repaired to the hut, but, upon inquiring for Mrs. Dalrymple, Fonchon assured him that the poor lady appeared in the agonies of death; that she had

dispatched her husband for the doctor; and she expressed her astonishment that the gentleman had been so long absent.

During this discourse, Jerome returned with a surgeon, who, after remaining some time with Mrs. Dalrymple, communicated the mournful intelligence that probably in a few hours she would visit "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." Mr. Dalrymple entered as the surgeon was giving his opinion, but was so absorbed in grief, that he was totally incapable of any exertion. Mr. Moundfort sent for additional medical assistance, but their efforts proved fruitless; as the same hour which gave birth to a female infant, terminated the existence of its mother.

The miserable Dalrymple became perfectly frantic, and coercive measures became necessary to tear him from the corpse of his wife: he was conducted

to Mr. Moundfort's villa, and for several weeks it was doubtful whether he would ever recover his reason.

Mrs. Dalrymple was buried in a respectable manner; and, as it was not probable that the child would long survive, she was baptized. As the father was incapable of naming the infant, Mr. Moundfort had her called Angelina, and placed under the care of Fonchon. All the information that could be obtained respecting this unfortunate couple was, that a merchant's ship had been wrecked at the mouth of the Garonne: Jerome, having his fishing-boat near, fortunately saved the lives of three persons, Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple, with a seaman, who had since died, from a contusion which he had received in the side.

Mr. Moundfort's villa was situated in an extensive vineyard, with a picturesque view of the Garonne. No one

knew from whence he came : he never received any letters ; he left Polignac every year for about six weeks, but did not take any servant with him, or was either the time of his departure or his return ever previously known. On his first settling in France, these peculiarities excited much curiosity ; but, after a short time, they were forgotten, as his unbounded charity and benevolence endeared him to all ranks in society, and the only sentiment that prevailed was admiration of his virtues, and regret that, from his retired habits, so worthy a man was lost to what is called the world.

At the period when Mr. Dalrymple was shipwrecked, Mr. Moundfort was just returned from his annual visit. He had then been settled in France about ten years, and was verging towards his forty-fifth year ; but he was blessed with that serenity of mind, unruffled by

violent passions, which is so conducive to health and happiness ; and, being of a florid complexion, he appeared scarcely forty. His address was open, without any affectation in his manner, which was rather grave than courteous : he had a most engaging countenance, spoke little, but whatever he said abounded with good sense and solid judgment. His behaviour on all occasions was governed by the strictest decorum : he never appeared either gay or melancholy ; he was himself serious ; but the gentleness of his deportment rather excited cheerfulness in others : his great amusement was developing characters, and, in general, he formed his opinion with impartiality and justice. In his establishment there was no display of luxury, but plenty, with all the real conveniencies of life ; and whatever was left of the day's provision, was, the following morning, distributed

among the poor. His family appeared to be the model of that regularity which is observable in the moral government of the world, as order was preserved without any abridgment of liberty. In Mr. Moundfort's establishment his visitors never discovered that formality which is more inconvenient than useful, or that mistaken profusion which, by being encumbered with superfluities, renders every thing useless : he made his arrangements at first with so much precision, that every thing afterwards went on of itself.

It is natural to imagine that the melancholy fate of the Dalrymples became the general topic of conversation : several ladies humanely proposed to superintend the poor little Angelina, who, contrary to the expectation of the medical tribe, appeared determined to continue in this world of sorrow. Mr. Moundfort requested that his friends,

Monsieur and Madame du Val, would come to him: they resided at Bourdeaux, and he wished that Madame du Val should see the little Angelina, with the hope that, as she had no children, she would interest herself in the fate of the interesting infant. Madame du Val anticipated his wishes, by voluntarily offering to supply the place of a mother to Angelina.

At the expiration of three months, Mr. Dalrymple seemed to emerge from the stupor which had so alarmed his friends; but he never reverted to the past, or inquired after his child. Whenever the door of his apartment was opened, expectation and anxiety sat on his brow. By desire of the faculty, Madame du Val entered his room with Angelina in her arms: it had the desired effect. Dalrymple burst into tears, and from that period became perfectly composed, and appeared desi-

rous of preserving that existence which before he considered as a burthen not worth retaining.

Soon after the interview with his child, Dalrymple sought Mr. Moundfort, fell on his knees, and expressed in the most eloquent terms his gratitude for the unbounded munificence and kindness with which he had been treated; requested that Mr. Moundfort would inform him of all the particulars respecting his wife's death, interment, &c.; after which, he communicated to his benefactor how he was situated.

“ I am, Sir,” said Dalrymple, “ the son of an officer, who lost his life in defending his king and country: he left three orphan children, of whom I am the only survivor. A small sum was granted from the Compassionate Fund, but very inadequate to my support; and if the benevolent Lord W——,

who commanded the army in which my father fell, had not paid for my education, I should not now have been known to you. At a proper age I was placed at a military academy, and presented with a pair of colours ; but, unfortunately, the packet in which I sailed to join my regiment was taken, and I was conducted as a prisoner into the interior of France, where I became acquainted with Georgiana Clermont : she resided with an elderly lady, with whom she had been placed when a child ; but, for some years, the stipend for her board had not been regularly paid, and she experienced all the hardships which poverty meets from overbearing pride. First I pitied the beautiful girl : this impression soon turned to a warmer sentiment. You, Sir, must acknowledge, that no passion exposes us to such delusion as love : we flatter ourselves it will never cool, and that, in possessing the object of our

adoration, the world has nothing else worth our acceptance.

“ Suffice it to say, we married ; but a few months brought us to reason, and myself to the keenest affliction, for my remittances from England were very precarious. I had the prospect of being a father, and Georgiana’s delicate constitution required the greatest care, and delicacies which my limited income could very ill afford. In hopes of bettering my situation, and being again able to fight in my country’s cause, I contrived to make my escape, and took our passage in the vessel which has proved so destructive to my happiness.”

“ And what are your future plans ?” asked Mr. Moundfort : “ it will be difficult for you to be long concealed in this place ; it will be equally impracticable to procure a conveyance to England. But, when you are sufficiently recovered to bear the fatigues of a jour-

ney, if you will follow my advice, and accept of my patronage, I will provide you with every thing necessary for your journey, and give you recommendations to some persons in Holland, who will forward your wishes. But it will be best that your infant should remain here : she is too young to be exposed to such a voyage, and in me she will ever find a father. Madame du Val will supply the place of a mother. A few years may make a great alteration in your pecuniary concerns ; during which period, rest assured that Angelina shall have every attention paid to her education which her tender years will admit. I feel an interest in the welfare of the child : it seems as if Providence had designed that she should in me find a protector."

Dalrymple in every respect consented to follow the advice of his benefactor ; and it was determined that, as soon as he

had perfectly regained his health, he should proceed to Holland. His melancholy continued, but he now bore his misfortunes as a man. The infantine caresses of Angelina made him feel that he was a father, and that it was his duty to exert himself for the sake of his child ; that, in so doing, he proved the ardent affection which he had for her mother, while they reminded him that he ought not by unavailing affliction to shorten a life on which the future welfare and happiness of his infant depended.

Dalrymple had been extremely well educated, and had a retentive memory ; his conversation was interesting, and the eloquence of his manners could not fail to procure him friends. Mr. Moundfort found his society very agreeable ; and, as the time drew near for his departure, he felt sorry that he was so soon to lose his companion : he even hinted to Dalrymple, that, if he could

make himself happy in residing with him in his house, he should ever find a home. Most joyfully would he have accepted of this generous proposal, if he only consulted his own feelings: but Dalrymple possessed a mind tremblingly alive to honour; he had already incurred pecuniary obligations, which he feared he would never have it in his power to cancel. To continue inactive when his country demanded his services, was totally impossible; and when he stated these sentiments, Mr. Moundfort no longer urged his request. He had every thing prepared for Dalrymple's departure, without once consulting him on the subject: he not only gave him clothes, and such things as were indispensable for his journey, but a selection of such books as would strengthen his mind, and enable him to bear with firmness the misfortunes which he might probably encounter in his peregrination through life.

Mr. Moundfort was induced to do this, as he feared, from what he had observed, that Dalrymple's religious principles had not been sufficiently attended to.

He took an opportunity one day, when talking of Angelina, to ask Dalrymple in what religion he would have her educated ; that she had been baptized in the Catholic faith, as she was then in such a state, that it was supposed that she would not live many hours, consequently they applied to the clergyman of the parish to christen her ; that he, Mr. Moundfort, was a Catholic, but he was no bigot ; consequently that, whatever were Mr. Dalrymple's wishes on the subject, they should invariably be followed. Dalrymple assured Mr. Moundfort that it was quite indifferent to him ; for, to confess the truth, it was a subject on which he never took the trouble to think.

“ I am,” he carelessly replied, “ an unbeliever.”

“ An unbeliever !” exclaimed Mr. Moundfort : “ what are you, indeed, so curst, as to have no hope of a future state ? well might you, then, presume to end a being which you consider at your own disposal. I have given you my friendship : it now rests with you to merit its continuance,” said Mr. Moundfort ; “ and, if you wish for it, you must allow me to endeavour to secure your happiness here, by convincing you that you must live hereafter.”

“ Most willingly, Sir,” said Dalrymple, “ will I listen to your admonitions. I have been so situated, that I have never considered very seriously the subject ; I have formed my opinions more from observation than sound reasoning. In my short intercourse with the world, I have scarcely seen one person live up

to the faith they professed : I have heard even priests ridicule the superstition of the very religion they propagated, and out of their churches commit all those sins, which, in their preaching, they so strenuously forbid to their parishioners : and I have often met with men of sound sense and probity, who have not scrupled to affirm that religion was only a bug-bear to deter the lower orders of society from proving obnoxious to their superiors."

" Then you deny the existence of a God, the immortality of the soul, and the free will of mortals!—that accident places us on earth, only to exist, to suffer, and to die!—that the life of man is without design, end, or moral object!"

" Life I consider as valuable to those who have the power of enjoying the various blessings it has to offer : while life is agréable, we all earnestly desire its continuance ; but it would be folly to suppose that a wise man can appre-

ciate existence as a blessing, when visited by sickness, want, sorrow, and the loss of those tender ties which constituted his happiness and softened all his cares; otherwise it is allowing that it is a blessing to man to crawl upon earth with gloomy sadness, and dwindle out an existence in pain and grief, because he has not courage to terminate an existence which is become insupportable. You may consider suicide as cowardice, but surely no one will dispute that the Romans were brave and wise; yet they preferred death to a disgraceful existence."

"You have formed a very erroneous opinion of the character of the Romans, my young friend," said Mr. Moundfort, "when you produce them as an example to support your irreligious principles. Refer to the period of the Republic; then point me out the citizen, who, even after the most dreadful misfortunes, presumed

to rush into the presence of his Maker, to exculpate himself from the discharge of his moral duties. It is incumbent on us, before we voluntarily resign our breath, that we should return the benefits which every individual has conferred on us, otherwise we rob mankind; for man cannot take one step without perceiving some duty to fulfil, as every soul is useful to society, if only from its existence; and it is expected that every one shall perform the duties required of him here: for, however low our station, or limited our circumstances, objects of commiseration daily meet our view. It is always in our power to comfort the unfortunate, to defend the oppressed, to sympathise with the unhappy: divest man of these sensations, and he is placed on the same footing as the brute creation."

Dalrymple pressed the hand of his benefactor:

"I am ashamed, Sir, that I have at-

tained my twenty-second year, without having thought seriously on a subject which you have convinced me is so essential to my present and future happiness ; but I will endeavour to merit your good opinion by making myself master of those duties for which the Almighty permitted me to exist : and assuredly I have unbounded reason to worship and adore that Being, who, in sorrow and sickness, conducted me to Mr. Moundfort's hospitable mansion ; and I feel most grateful, when I reflect that Angelina has such a friend as you, who will instruct her in such principles as will render her a useful member in society."

While Dalrymple remained at Polignac, Mr. Moundfort had frequently clergymen at his house, whom he had previously informed of Dalrymple's sentiments. Mr. Moundfort felt a sincere affection for his young companion ; he

lamented that a man so formed to fulfil all the respective duties in life, and so calculated to make others happy, should be ignorant of that faith which gives virtue all its merit and innocence all its beauty ; that he should experience only the dreadful torpor of an unbeliever : but, as the persons whom Mr. Moundfort had selected for the great purpose of converting Dalrymple were gentlemen who were true christians, without possessing the bigotry of the Catholic religion, they conveyed their instruction in such mild and interesting language, that Dalrymple became a convert to their opinions ; and, if he before felt grateful to Mr. Moundfort for his benevolence, he now regarded with veneration the man who had extended his charity to relieve his wants, not only here, but to give him a temper, which would, in future, support him through all the afflictions in this world ; with a conviction that a certain

reward awaits those whose actions here entitle them to the crown of glory hereafter.

From being absent and gloomy, Dalrymple became cheerful ; such an effect has religion on the true believer. As the time approached for his departure, his repugnance to parting from Angelina augmented : he traced in her features a resemblance to his departed Georgiana, and he fervently prayed that the daughter's destiny might be more fortunate than her poor mother's. It was true, he should leave her with such a friend as sure never man before possessed ; but it might be years before he again pressed her to his heart. She would have no recollection of her father ; and those affections to which he had an undoubted right would be lavished on others.

The day previous to his departure, Mr. Moundfort thus addressed Dalrymple, giving him a packet :

“This, my dear friend, you will deliver to Mr. Vanneck, at Amsterdam : from him you will learn your future prospects, and in him you will find a sincere friend. An impenetrable secret prevents my disclosing to you my real name. Were I to have letters addressed to me, it probably might discover my place of residence ; therefore you will write to me under cover to Monsieur du Val ; and, as you value my friendship, never mention, directly or indirectly, your having been here, or any thing concerning me, not even to Mr. Vanneck.

“ It is necessary I should tell you, that, although I possess an ample fortune, it is only lifehold ; but, as I have adopted Angelina, I will secure to her sufficient to keep her from want ; and I hope in a few years that you will have it in your power to add to the little which I can present her with.”

After Dalrymple's departure, every one observed Mr. Moundfort was not so cheerful as usual ; in fact, for the first time, he felt the want of society, and that books, at times, are a poor substitute for social converse. Every day he went to see his little charge ; but, the winter coming on, he found the distance inconvenient, and he determined to have Angelina brought home to his house. The child took cold ; this alarmed him ; and he resolved that she should, in future, reside under his roof ; and, as he did not understand the management of infants, he prevailed on Monsieur and Madame du Val to pass a few months with him, which they accepted with avidity ; for they considered Mr. Moundfort as a gentleman of fortune, and they had long anticipated to partake of his riches. They knew that he had some reason for the concealment

of his name, and had frequently endeavoured to obtain his confidence ; but Mr. Moundfort always waved the subject, and they found it impracticable to come at the truth of his situation : they hoped, by becoming inmates of his, that he would be off his guard, and probably some fortunate event might discover to them who he really was, and what expectations they might reasonably form from the intelligence.

Madame du Val treated Angelina with the greatest tenderness : the child became extremely fond of her, and Mr. Moundfort made the Du Vals many valuable presents. When his little protégée began to lisp Papa, he was delighted. Angelina had such strong hold of his affections, that she filled his thoughts by day and his dreams by night ; for he considered himself bound to the father to make some provision for her, which he determined to accomplish as soon as

he returned from his journey the following year.

Madame du Val, after her return to Bourdeaux, frequently sent toys and bon bons to Angelina, well knowing that every trifle bestowed on her would be returned twenty-fold by her benefactor.

Mr. Moundfort left his little charge with Madame du Val when he took his annual journey, and, on his return, delivered into that lady's hands a sealed packet, directed for Angelina Dalrymple, to be opened at his death for the benefit of that child. Madame du Val burst into tears ; fervently prayed that she might not survive the day when the world would be deprived of a man, whose humanity and generosity made such a conspicuous ornament to society.

Two letters had been received from Dalrymple ; one, to inform them of his safe arrival in Holland ; the other, to say that the kind friends whom Mr.

Moundfort had recommended him to in Amsterdam had effected his escape to England ; that, on his reporting himself to the War-office, he was informed that money had been lodged for a lieutenancy ; that he was appointed to a regiment then in India, and that in a few weeks he must sail for that country : he also found in his agent's hands 200*l*. All this munificence he placed to the account of that generous friend who had restored him to life, to religion, and to happiness.

As Angelina increased in years, Mr. Moundfort instructed her in useful knowledge ; and at twelve years of age she was an universal favourite : it is true, she had acquired no superficial accomplishment, excepting dancing, an exercise which Mr. Moundfort thought conducive to health : but her mind was well stored with such knowledge as would make her a pleasing companion, a sin-

cere friend, and a good wife. She was his almoner, attended the sick, consoled the afflicted, and relieved the distressed.

She looked upon Fonchon as her dearest friend, next to her Papa, as she called Mr. Moundfort. Frequently would she steal to Fonchon's hut, and listen to the good woman, with tears running down her cheeks, while she related the story of the shipwreck, and the death of her unfortunate mother. She would sit on the bed in which her parent expired, and lament that she was an orphan; then she would beg Fonchon not to tell her Papa Moundfort that she cried, for he would think her ungrateful for his parental kindness. Surely he provided her with every thing she could want or wish for, and she loved him as a father; but, then, she said, she felt that she could love two fathers; and, if her own dear Papa from India was with her, he would amuse

Mr. Moundfort, for she was sure he was not happy, as frequently she saw him on his knees, praying devoutly, and weeping bitterly; and, when she begged him not to be unhappy, he would take her on his knee, and tell her that she must never take notice to any one that he wept; that he loved her dearly; in fact, she constituted his only happiness, for, in instructing her, he forgot all his troubles.

Angelina always remained with Monsieur and Madame du Val when Mr. Moundfort went his annual peregrination; and, to indulge her, they took her to a concert. She was in an ecstasy, and implored of Madame du Val that she would let her learn the harp: her request was instantly acceded to, and she was so passionately fond of music, and so indefatigable in her application, that, on Mr. Moundfort's return, he was surprised and delighted at the progress

which she had made, and engaged a master to attend her at Polignac. Her time was now fully employed, for Mr. Moundfort was so fearful that her education might not in every respect be complete, that he procured her masters, but always attended when she took her lessons; and, as he seldom saw any company, and never went out but for exercise, of course she reaped every advantage from his instructions.

At fifteen she was well accomplished, and well informed both in modern and ancient history; and, as she had only read such books as could tend to expand the understanding and improve the morals, she possessed a firmness of mind which surpassed her years, and a judgment which promised through life to guide her to the path of virtue and happiness.

Mr. Moundfort perfectly doated on her, and told Monsieur and Madame du

Val that he really believed his fondness for Angelina would induce him once more to mix with a world which he had long determined never to enter. To part from her was impossible, and to bury her in the solitude in which he resided would be unjust; and, although he trembled for her future destiny, he considered it his duty to introduce her to society suitable to her age and expectations in life; for, in the last letters which had been received from Dalrymple, he had enclosed remittances for his daughter; and it contained the pleasing intelligence that he was promoted to a major; that he had been so successful in India, that, in a few years more, he looked forward to the pleasing certainty of ending his days with his beloved Angelina, and his dear and respectable friend and benefactor. He had not forgotten the Du Vals, as valuable presents were sent to the lady for her kindness to his

daughter. In short, at this period, every thing had the appearance of future happiness for Angelina ; she felt the full force of the blessings she enjoyed, and was most grateful to that Providence who had so peculiarly watched over her infancy, by giving her such a protector as Mr. Moundfort.

But, in the midst of her happiness, she could not divest herself of some uneasiness respecting the health of her benefactor. Since his last return to Polignac, he appeared extremely thoughtful, and was more grave than usual ; at times he appeared even desponding, and fled even from the society of his beloved Angelina. She once ventured to ask him if she could not alleviate that affliction under which he laboured : he looked at her affectionately, and gravely replied,

“ My dear child, be assured that I would not conceal from you any thing

which could contribute to your happiness. Were I to tell you the history of my life, I should only excite in you sentiments of horror, pity, and sorrow, and I should reap no alleviation to my grief by the recital, but disturb that tranquillity which I have been years in acquiring. Mine has been a dreadful destiny ; but, as it has proceeded from no fault of mine, I have the consolation of knowing that, hereafter, I shall reap the reward of a well-spent life. If it were not for you, my dear child, I should feel no regret at leaving a world in which I have experienced such dreadful misfortunes. My present melancholy will soon subside: to-morrow, Père St. Paul is coming to pass some time here ; and in his sensible society, with the aid of religion, I hope to regain that serenity which I owe to my Maker and to society."

CHAP. II.

The chamber where the good man meets his fate
 Is privileg'd beyond the common walk
 Of virtuous life, quite in the verge of Heaven.
 Fly, ye profane ! or else draw near with awe,
 For here resistless Demonstration dwells ;
 Here tir'd Dissimulation drops her mask ;
 Here real and apparent are the same.
 You see the man, you see his hold on Heaven :
 Heaven waits not the last moment, owns its friends
 On this side death, and points them out to men ;
 A lecture, silent, but of sov'reign pow'r ;
 To Vice, confusion ; and to Virtue, peace !

THE good Père St. Paul arrived according to his promise, and in the society of this venerable priest Mr. Moundfort regained his usual composure of mind : but his health evidently declined ; and Angelina was apprehensive that the fatigue of the approaching

vintage would be too much for his strength. She hinted her fears on this subject; but her benevolent benefactor assured her that he every day felt an amendment in his health, and that, as soon as the vintage was finished, he had it in contemplation to pass the winter in Paris, where she would have not only the advantage of the best masters, but mix in a world which she was so calculated to adorn.

Angelina was now a beautiful girl, rather above the middle size; and the natural impetuosity of a generous disposition was subdued by the excellent precepts which she had imbibed from Mr. Moundfort and Père St. Paul; she therefore felt perfectly satisfied in devoting her time to her benefactor, and would cheerfully have ended her days in the solitude in which she had been brought up; but it was natural, at Angelina's age, that she should wish to see the

places of which she had only formed her ideas from the authors which she had read; and the few weeks she had, at times, passed at Bourdeaux, had given her a taste for the theatre and other fashionable amusements, which, if Mr. Moundfort accompanied her, would receive additional fascination in her eyes.

During the vintage, open house was kept at the villa for all who assisted in the vineyard. Monsieur and Madame du Val always passed that season at Polignac, and Mr. Moundfort, with all his inmates, worked with the gatherers. Angelina, on these occasions, was in the height of her glory; she laughed, danced, and sung with the young, assisted the old, and listened to their long stories. Every heart at this period appeared gay; a general good humour seemed to prevail over the face of the whole group. The sound of rustic instruments animated the people to work,

while the clustered fruit, which heaven has bestowed as a cure for all our woes, formed a luxuriant and picturesque scene.

The vineyard swells refulgent on the day,
 Spreads o'er the vale, or up the mountain climbs,
 Profuse, and drinks amid the sunny rocks,
 From cliff to cliff increas'd, the heighten'd blaze.
 Low bend the weighty boughs: the clusters clear,
 Half thro' the foliage seen, or ardent flame,
 Or shine transparent; while Perfection breathes
 White o'er the turgent film the living dew.
 As thus they brighten with exalted juice,
 Touch'd into flavour by the mingling ray,
 The rural youth and virgins o'er the field,
 Each fond for each to cull th' Autumnal prime,
 Exulting rove, and speak the vintage night.

On week days only such indulgence was allowed to the labourers as suited their situations, for Mr. Moundfort would not, by a superfluous liberality, encourage idleness; but, on the Saturday, every one who merited additional

pay, from their indefatigable industry, received it. Angelina, on these occasions, was the judge; and she conferred her bounty with such care and delicacy, that it created no animosity amongst the people; it excited gratitude in the favoured person, and industry in the others, being assured that, when they merited reward, they would obtain it.

After the evening service on the Sundays, they all assembled in a large barn to dance: the family joined in this diversion, supped with the labourers without any distinction; and the presence of their superiors laid no restraint on the people, as they promoted cheerfulness and sobriety; consequently the repast ended in gratitude and festivity.

Angelina anxiously watched Mr. Moundfort, for his altered countenance assured her that he was far from well, and that he frequently exerted himself to ease her apprehensions for his safety:

she entreated him not to remain so many hours in the vineyard, as the evening dew was very prejudicial. He only smiled, and assured her that, as soon as he had assisted old Fonchon with her load of grapes to the press, he would return to the house: but, whether the weight was more than he was equal to, or whether a faintness seized him, he could not tell; but a giddiness came over him, and he reeled against a cask. It was with great difficulty he walked to the villa.

Angelina sent an express for Père St. Paul, who had left them but a few days, as she knew that Mr. Moundfort had great faith in his medical skill. Her benefactor went to bed, and she watched by him with the greatest anxiety. His sleep was short and disturbed, frequently calling on Arminda. When St. Paul arrived, he requested to be left with his patient. It was two hours before the

priest quitted the chamber: every one was waiting with the greatest anxiety to hear the good Father's opinion; and, when he entered the parlour, however great their anxiety to know the truth, the dread of unfavourable intelligence kept them silent.

Angelina approached St. Paul, took his hand, and burst into tears. The old man was so affected, that he mingled his sorrow with that of the beautiful orphan's. "Then it is as I dreaded," said Angelina; "my benefactor, my more than father, will die!"

"He will, indeed, soon reap the reward promised to those who live up to the standard of their faith," replied St. Paul: "his fever is high, and he has long, my dear child, been in a decline. Recal to your mind the various and numerous benefits which he has conferred on you; recollect now is the epoch when you must prove that you are sen-

sible of the gratitude you owe to him ; and that fifteen years of anxiety and care for your welfare here and hereafter have not been spent in vain. It is your duty in his last moments to attend upon and to comfort him ; not by unavailing regret to add poignancy to the bitterness of death. I expect this of you, Angelina, and I am convinced that you will now exert that firmness of mind which you so eminently possess. In half an hour I will meet you in Mr. Moundfort's room. The mixture which I have administered requires that he should at present be kept quiet."

Angelina retired, and shut herself in her closet : she devoted the half hour in prayer and supplication to that Being before whom the virtuous can never plead in vain.

At the expiration of the appointed time she went to Mr. Moundfort, to ap-

pearance perfectly composed. He held out his hand to her, which she kissed.

“ My dear child, I must soon leave you ; and I trust that you will recollect and follow those principles of religion which have been early planted in your mind. Without them, you can never know happiness ; with them, you can never be miserable. Till you hear from your father, I would have you reside with Monsieur and Madame du Val. You will have sufficient to support you, and also, in some degree, to exercise that charity which is due to your fellow creatures. Père St. Paul will be a father to you : consult him when you need advice, and strictly follow his opinion. Let not your grief at losing your second father render you incapable of performing your religious and moral duties. Recollect we shall meet, my dear Angelina, to part no more. I

am perfectly resigned to my fate: I have endeavoured to perform the duties required of me in this world of temptation and of sorrow. I prayed when in health for divine grace and favour; it was then that I was preparing for death,—for meeting my God and Judge at the last hour. I feel assured that my Redeemer is more merciful than I am criminal, and my confidence in his goodness increases as I approach nearer to him. I do not meet him with the repentance occasioned by a bed of sickness, pain, and sorrow: I have dedicated my whole life to him, full of errors and faults I confess, but exempt from the remorse of the wicked or the crimes of the impious. I rejoice that I shall soon appear before my Maker. My body, it is true, still lives, but my intellectual life is past. To suffer and to die is all that remains for me on this

side the grave, and this is nature's work."

"Your death, my dear Sir," said Father Paul, "is such as always accompanies a well-spent life, and your reward hereafter will be adequate to your work in this world. Whether it pleases the Almighty to restore you to your afflicted friends, or to call you to himself, may we all, while we remain on this side the grave, live like you, and in the end follow your example in death! Then shall we all be certain of happiness in the world to come."

During this conversation, Angelina had sunk upon her knees, and covered her face with her hands; but her smothered sobs and heart-rending sighs too evidently divulged the state of her heart: at last she rose, and in the most affecting manner addressed Mr. Moundfort:—

“ Allow me, my father, my benefactor, and friend, to thank you for the constant care with which you watched over my infancy, and the good advice which you invariably have given to be the means of conducting me to the path of virtue and Christianity. With what mildness and complacency you have borne with my errors, and even at this moment to interest yourself in my future fate ! Most fervently will I pray, that, by my perseverance in doing right here, I may secure the certainty of joining you hereafter. Alas ! my dear Sir, why does it not please the Almighty to take me instead of you ? I have only one connection, only one tie, on earth—my loss would only be felt by one individual ; but to take you, is robbing the orphan of her protector, the unfortunate of their hope ! ”

“ Stop, stop, Angelina,” said Père St. Paul, “ nor thus dare to arraign the

orders of Providence, or, by language like this, disturb the composure of your benefactor. It is your duty to submit to the will of your Heavenly Father with patience and resignation. Your earthly father has taught you this lesson by his practice: follow his example here, and you will live and join him hereafter."

Monsieur and Madame du Val had some private conversation with Mr. Moundfort, after which the servants were summoned. He took leave of them all in a most affecting manner, and gave them such advice as would be of service to them through life. They then all remained with Père St. Paul, who said mass.

From this time Angelina never left the room of her benefactor: she attended constantly to him; and he was so composed, that she began to hope that the good Father's anxiety for his pa-

tient's recovery had magnified his danger; but Mr. Moundfort's complaint gained ground every instant, and he expired in the night.

Angelina was the first person who approached the bed; and Père St. Paul, perceiving what had happened, took her to her chamber. She became perfectly frantic; ran about the apartment, wringing her hands; sometimes calling on her beloved father, her dear Mr. Moundfort; then shrieking most dreadfully; then beseeching Père St. Paul to let her take a last look at her benefactor: in fact, she was in a delirium. It was recommended that she should be let blood, and for some days she was incapable of rising.

During this period, every thing was prepared for the funeral; and, on coming to herself, Angelina, summoning that fortitude which was natural to her character, apologized to St. Paul for

the impetuosity which she had manifested, and the little attention which she had paid to his precepts, thus, in the first severe trial she had encountered, to sink under it. She requested that she might be permitted to attend her benefactor to his last home, and the good Father consented to her request: he knew her disposition, and he was sure that she would acquit herself properly on so solemn an occasion.

Angelina was accompanied to the funeral by all the principal persons in Poulignac; the poor also followed in decent mourning. Mr. Moundfort was buried by torch-light, and a more solemn procession was never beheld. Père St. Paul preached a sermon on the event which had brought them together: every eye bore testimony to the virtues of the deceased. During the ceremony, Angelina kept her eyes fixed on the corpse; but, as soon as it disappeared,

it was evident that she exerted all the resolution she possessed to bear her grief with quiet composure.

On her return to the villa, she acquitted herself with the greatest serenity, and from that day her conduct was such as delighted Père St. Paul. She regulated the family in the same manner which her beloved benefactor had done, and she continued his bounty to the numerous persons to whom he extended his munificence.

The villa and vineyard Mr. Moundfort rented, and, as he left no regular will, but only memorandums, St. Paul directed what was to be done respecting his property. After six months Angelina was to return with the Du Vals to Bordeaux, at which period all Mr. Moundfort's effects were to be sold, and the produce to be set apart for his beloved Angelina; and, as he had a considerable sum of money in the house, nearly two thousand

pounds came to her share : but Père St. Paul could not but express his surprise that a larger sum had not been secured to Angelina, as Mr. Moundfort had repeatedly assured him that he had made ample provision for his protégée. Monsieur and Madame du Val also appeared astonished at the smallness of Angelina's fortune, but assured her, that, even had she been pennyless, she would ever have found an asylum in their house.

As to the orphan, she was perfectly contented with what her benefactor had left her ; but he had certainly told her that he had placed property in Madame du Val's hands which would support her in affluence : she mentioned this to Père St. Paul ; but, upon his hinting the subject to Madame du Val, she assured him that Mr. Moundfort had talked of so doing, but had never fulfilled his intention.

As the time drew near for her leaving

the villa, Angelina felt the most poignant affliction : every walk and tree at Polignac was endeared to her by the recollection of former times. Fonchon was too old to accompany her, and as she felt even a parental affection for the good woman who had reared her, it would have been a great comfort to have had her accompany her to Bourdeaux.

The night before she left the villa, she visited the tombs of her unfortunate mother and her beloved benefactor.

Invidious grave ! how dost thou rend in sunder
Whom love has knit, and sympathy made one !
A tie more stubborn far than nature's band.
Friendship ! mysterious cement of the soul !
Sweet'ner of life, and solder of society !
I owe thee much ! thou hast deserv'd from me
Far, far beyond what I can ever pay.
Oft have I prov'd the labour of thy love,
And the warm efforts of the gentle heart
Anxious to please.

She passed several hours in the melan-

choly abode of the dead : she was sensible that she had hitherto been the peculiar care of Providence, and to repine at his decrees was sinful, but she felt her forlorn and helpless state. It had been several months since she had heard from India ; she now more than ever lamented the great distance her father was from her : in fact, she was alone in the world, for she knew of no person to whom she could claim kindred, and, if she lost her father, the world would be a desert to her. Naturally she was extremely lively, and the affectionate attention of Mr. Moundfort had prevented all her wishes : in his sensible and pleasing society she had never felt the loss of relatives. But a few months had materially altered her ideas ; she became pensive and melancholy, and Madame du Val was impatient for the moment which was to convey them from a place which had always been too retired to suit her

disposition, and which, from the grief which every person evinced for the death of Mr. Moundfort, had now become insupportably dull. As the only legacy he had left her was some beautiful old china and a few diamonds, she felt disappointed and discontented.

Angelina did not return from the tombs till day-break. Père St. Paul joined her in the parlour.

“ I respect your grief, my dear child,” said the reverend Father, “ and far be it from me to chide you for it ; but recollect that your benefactor is happy : his last words were, to represent to you the impropriety of unavailing regret, and by that means weaken your mind, and render you incapable of performing those obligations to your fellow creatures which are expected of you. You are now going to enter into what is called life : you will be flattered and courted ; temptation will surround you

on every side ; and you must rely on your own notions of what is right and wrong to regulate your actions ; for Madame du Val is better calculated to shine at an assembly than ‘ to direct the young ideas how to shoot.’ Be cautious how you form friendships ; be careful to know the characters of those in whom you confide, for oftentimes a vicious heart accompanies a beautiful countenance. It grieves me that I cannot be near to direct your steps, and watch over your welfare ; but I must return to my convent, as my occupations there demand my presence.— Write to me, and tell me every thing which concerns your welfare. Look upon me as your best friend, for I have your interest much at heart.”

Angelina thanked Père St. Paul for his kindness, and promised to abide by his advice. When the family met at breakfast, she received them with cheer-

fulness, for she feared offending Madame du Val by the great reluctance she shewed at going with her ; but, when the carriage appeared that was to convey her from Polignac, all her fortitude forsook her, and she sunk lifeless into Madame du Val's arms. In this situation they placed her in the carriage, and she was a league from the villa before she opened her eyes.

Variety of objects and change of scene had the desired effect on Angelina, and in a few weeks her natural vivacity returned. Madame du Val kept a great deal of company ; she frequented all the public places ; and the orphan was much noticed, both from her beauty and the fascinating manners she possessed. Frequently she pleaded powerfully to remain at home, as the dissipated life they led precluded her from attending to those improvements which she was anxious to obtain both in her music and

drawing ; but Madame du Val always found some excuse or other which made it necessary for Angelina to attend her ; and, at the expiration of three months, she was astonished to find that she had profited so little from the instructions of the most able masters.

She felt considerable uneasiness at not hearing from her father ; she knew that the regiment which he commanded had been sent up the country, and she apprehended that he might have fallen in action, or have been taken prisoner.

Monsieur and Madame du Val had some concerns which compelled them to visit Paris ; and, as their stay there was uncertain, they not only parted with their house in Bourdeaux, but dismissed all their servants. Angelina was delighted at the thoughts of seeing Paris, and for the first time she prepared for a journey without experiencing regret : she should also be enabled to gain more satisfactory

intelligence there respecting her father. Previously to her leaving Bourdeaux, she returned to Polignac to see Fonchon, and also to arrange with her the manner in which she should from time to time make such remittances as she could appropriate for the relief of some of the persons whom Mr. Moundfort had particularly patronised; for she now found that she should be compelled to limit her bounty, as the expences attending the appearance she was compelled to make in Madame du Val's house cut very deep into her income: this was a subject of great affliction to Angelina, for she was generous and benevolent, and took great delight in administering consolation and charity to the distressed.

Her parting from Fonchon was very affecting, as the old woman expressed her fears that they should never meet more; and Angelina could not

but feel that, in all probability, she saw her for the last time. Fortunately, Mr. Moundfort had given Fonchon a cottage, and sufficient to make the remainder of her life comfortable: this was a great consolation to the orphan, for she now had it not in her power to continue her usual munificence. Indeed, every day she felt the indigent state in which she was left; and Madame du Val rather promoted her incurring expences than otherwise.

The week which Angelina passed at Polignac with Fonchon was more agreeable to her feelings than any she had spent since the death of Mr. Moundfort; for, although she liked public places and mixing in society, yet the persons who frequented Madame du Val's house were not exactly such as suited her taste.

She now had leisure to reflect on the future, and she determined to exert

every effort to find out some of her father's relations, also her mother's: she knew her name was Bentinck, and she flattered herself that at Paris she should get acquainted with some English. At Bourdeaux she had endeavoured to accomplish this ; but Monsieur du Val appeared averse from mixing with them.

Their journey to Paris produced no incidents worth relating. Handsome apartments were taken in a central part of that city. The French are so naturally polite, amiable, and hospitable, that Angelina was delighted with them. She was charmed with the good sense which she met with in French society, not only amongst the learned, but amongst the ladies: their conversation was so easy and so natural ; it was gay, without being noisy ; polite, without affectation ; they reasoned without argument, and were witty without punning ; they discuss subjects for the sake

of information, and desist before it comes to a dispute. By this mode of conversation every one improves, every one amuses himself; and they part satisfied with each other. By these means they form a proper judgment of life and manners. This enables them to make a right use of society, to know the people with whom they converse, and to form their friendships accordingly.

Angelina had always felt a predilection for the French nation; she had reaped great knowledge and improvement from the authors of that country; but, at first, the manners of the ladies appeared rather too free to accord with her ideas of propriety. Upon a further acquaintance, she was convinced that it only proceeded from a natural vivacity which accompanied all their actions, and from their being more in men's company than the women of other nations; for, in France, the ladies learn

to act and form their ideas from the other sex ; and frequently, from this intercourse, the men become more effeminate than is suitable to the male character. But our orphan, in the gaieties of Paris, found that she could not select one female as a friend : they were all polite, all fascinating in their professions of friendship. But that reciprocal regard which unites persons of similar sentiments in other countries did not reign in the bosom of a French belle ; and Angelina, in the midst of persons, all of whom expressed the most ardent desire to serve her, found that her heart was ready to communicate, but could find no one ready to listen ; and, after a few months' residence with the Parisians, she began to feel disgusted with the unmeaning offers of obliging offices of friendship and civilities with which she was constantly pestered.

Madame du Val was immersed in a scene of dissipation, and the orphan was surprised to see with what address that lady ingratiated herself into all societies. She constantly accommodated her principles with those of the company she was in ; she seemed to leave her conscience at the door of every house in which she entered ; she talked and amused every one within her reach, not a sentiment coming from the heart ; and frequently, in the same breath, contradicting what she had just before advanced.

Madame du Val still endeavoured to prevent Angelina from mixing in the societies where she was likely to meet with English, and the orphan was equally vigilant to get introduced to some English families ; and, as Madame du Val considered her own pleasure above all other things on earth, she could not give up any invitation which would pro-

mote it. As her engagements were too often such as she did not wish the orphan to witness, Angelina, on these occasions, was left her own mistress ; and it was the only time she could devote to study, and writing to St. Paul.

To the good Father she candidly opened her mind, and expressed a wish to see him, as she confessed, since her residence with Madame du Val, she had reason to form a very indifferent opinion of that lady's morals : that she could get no information respecting her father ; that she had hitherto been prevented making any acquaintance with the English in Paris ; in fact, her situation was extremely distressing, and she entreated St. Paul to give her his advice how she should act, provided he could not come to her.

The good man lost no time in replying to her letter, which was delivered to her by a priest ; and the benevolent

person who presented it, by his proffers of friendship, in some degree mitigated the regret she felt in reading that Père St. Paul was now Superior of his Convent, consequently could not leave it; but he assured her that the priest who delivered the letter would in every respect supply his place, and indeed, from having mixed more with the world, was better able to direct her actions than he could be, who had never left his convent but upon religious duties.

It was a great consolation to Angelina to have such a respectable friend, and through him she got introduced to a Mrs. Stewart, who had resided some years in France. She was a lady of retired habits, but well informed, and one to whom all the English paid great respect: she related to her English friend her situation, and the name of her mother. Mrs. Stewart assured her that the Clermonts were persons of distinc-

tion, and she strongly advised that Angelina should go to England, as there she would be able to find out either her father's or her mother's family.

But the great difficulty was to accomplish this: her little property was in Monsieur du Val's hands; and recently she had experienced great difficulty in even getting a few louis from him; added to which, it had been Mr. Moundfort's desire that she should remain with them till she had her father's orders to act otherwise; but she was sure that Mr. Moundfort did not know Madame du Val's real character, or he never would have countenanced her; consequently, had he been living, he would have withdrawn Angelina from such protection.

But all Angelina's plans and projects were settled by Madame du Val; for Monsieur du Val entered the orphan's apartment like a madman, declaring

that Angelina and he were both ruined, as his wife had fled with some paramour, and robbed him ; that he should immediately follow, and take measures to stop her ; but that, even if he succeeded, he was sure that she would never give back the sum she had taken. He then confessed that Mr. Moundfort had placed in Madame du Val's hands policies of insurance on his life to the amount of 10,000*l.* ; that Madame had sent these insurances to England, with the certificate of Mr. Moundfort's death ; and that a few weeks since the sum had been remitted to her.

Poor Angelina was petrified. That Madame du Val, who had known her from an infant, could act thus basely by her, was indeed shocking to humanity. Before she could make any reply to this information, Monsieur du Val had quitted the room, and immediately left Paris. The poor orphan was absolutely

left pennyless in that great city; but, although she severely felt the shock, she bore it like a Christian. She sent for her friend, the priest, and stated her situation. He searched the apartments, when they found that every thing of value had been removed, but a small parcel directed for Angelina, containing 3000 crowns.

After remaining some time consulting with the priest, it was decided that he should inform Mrs. Stewart of what had happened; and in a few hours that lady called on Angelina, and invited her to remain at her house till some plan could be adopted for the future welfare of the orphan.

CHAP. III.

O yet, while Heav'n suspends your doom, be wise,
 My sons ! O cease to listen to the lure
 Of Pleasure ! Death attends her forward step,
 And Peril lays the sure though secret snare.
 Hear, then, the words of age. Yet fate bestows
 One hour ; yet Virtue, with indulgent voice,
 By me invites to shun the devious maze
 Of error : Yet to crown with length of days,
 With joy, with happiness, your bold career,
 She hopes ! O snatch the proffer'd boon ! be rous'd,
 Ere her strong arm tremendous at your heads
 Shall launch th' avenging thunder ; ere dismay'd,
 Perplex'd, bewilder'd, wild, you seek the haunt
 Of Peace, when darkness veils her lowly cot,
 And mourn her gentle smile for ever gone.

THE readers of this work, of course,
 must be anxious to know how a man of
 Mr. Moundfort's character and discern-
 ment could have formed any intimacy

with persons of Monsieur and Madame du Val's propensities.

On that gentleman's retiring to France, his agent referred him to Monsieur du Val to settle the agreement respecting his villa at Polignac, which residence was the property of Monsieur le Marquis de Grammont. In consequence of this reference, an intercourse took place between Mr. Moundfort and the Du Vals ; and, in his presence, their conduct was so circumspect as to render themselves agreeable to him. The lady's great partiality to Angelina was sufficient to demand his gratitude ; and the handsome presents which they received in consequence of their attention to the orphan, was such as amply repaid them for the sacrifice which they occasionally made in devoting their time to, in their opinion, such insipid society ; as, from Monsieur and Madame du Val's history,

it will appear that they had seldom before been received where virtue resided.

Madame du Val's father held a small place in the Customs. As he had a numerous family, he was unable to leave them fortunes ; he therefore considered it prudent to place them in such situations in the world as would give them an opportunity of acquiring a decent provision for themselves.

It was the lot of Madame du Val, after having acquired the tincture of a fashionable education, to be apprenticed to a milliner in Lisle ; and, being extremely pretty, she had the good fortune to captivate a respectable tradesman, who married her, and for some time she conducted herself becoming the situation in which she was placed. Her husband, by his attention and frugality, at the age of forty, had acquired a sufficient sum to enable him to live

in a comfortable manner, without the great confinement and anxiety which attends trade; and, observing some levities in his wife, he resolved to sell off at prime cost, and retire from the smoke and noise of a town to the wholesome fresh air of the country.

His spouse was averse to this; but, upon his assuring her that he did not intend to seclude her from society, but on the contrary should keep a chaise and a livery servant, she became reconciled to his plan of happiness. Accordingly, a house was taken, with a good garden and some acres of land, near a market town; and, as Monsieur and Madame du Bois' appearance and establishment put them on a level with the best families in the neighbourhood, they soon had a respectable acquaintance, and, for a few months, the novelty of the scene made the time pass rapidly.

As the winter approached, Mr. du Bois began to find that his long residence in a city had rendered him a novice to those amusements with which the country abounds : he could neither hunt, shoot, nor fish. A delicate constitution prevented his drinking ; and a pipe, which was his delight, was obnoxious to the persons with whom he now associated. He soon found that he was the subject of ridicule to all his neighbours ; that, when he entered, significant nods and winks were given : the ladies in particular whispered and smiled ; some of them also treated his wife with great incivility, looking always another way when they met, that they might not notice her. This was more distressing to him than their behaviour to himself, as, since her residence in the country, she had become more domestic, and he did not perceive that levity in her deportment which had

caused him so much uneasiness at Lisle.

Her chief companion was the apothecary's wife, a mighty good kind of body, he thought ; quite the gossip of the village ; and, when he took his pipe at a respectable cabaret which he frequented, his spouse always went to see her friend. As to the apothecary, he was the gazette of the place, and was held in great request by all the old maids and bachelors, as he never entered their habitations without bringing a mouthful of news, which his patients swallowed with avidity ; and it had a most happy effect on their constitutions, as it induced them to take air and exercise, that they might divulge it to those of their unhappy acquaintance who did not want Mr. Accoucheur's attendance.

In one of these visits, Mademoiselle Chat, a young lady verging on her sixtieth year, called where a particular

friend of Monsieur du Bois was sitting : she was scarcely seated before she eased her mind of the burden of intelligence which she had to communicate. “ Well, have you heard about the new-comers? Oh! I have a delightful anecdote concerning the lady—so much for marrying a beauty. I have long known who she was before she married : I thought what all the new dignity would arrive at. Poor Monsieur du Bois ! I believe he is a worthy soul ; but it is laughable to think how the good man is bamboozled. While he, forsooth, is smoking his pipe, his lady wife passes her time with the Marquis de Grammont. In future, I am sure I shall not visit her ; and, indeed, I think Madame Accoucheur is very reprehensible in carrying on the intrigue : as she suffers them to meet at her house, no doubt she is well paid for her complaisance.”

The person to whom this conversa-

tion was addressed did all she could to stop the subject, as she knew that Monsieur du Bois' friend had a decided aversion to the lady alluded to, and feared that he would investigate the business; but it was totally impossible to prevent the torrent of scandal, and the result proved fatal to Monsieur du Bois, as measures were soon taken to convince him of his wife's infidelity. A separation was the consequence, and the lady placed herself under the protection of the Marquis.

But Monsieur du Bois really loved his wife, and her living a life of infamy in the same neighbourhood where he resided, and where he had only a few months before seen her caressed by persons of the first respectability, afflicted him so severely, that he only lived two years after she left him. He bequeathed to her one hundred per year for life; and as, at this period, the Marquis de

Grammont was tired of his companion, and having a treaty of marriage on foot with a rich heiress, he made up a match between his cast-off mistress and his confidential valet. He added two hundred per annum to their income ; and, as Du Val was a fine handsome fellow, the lady had no objection to being made once more an honest woman. They resided at Bourdeaux, where Du Val had some concerns to transact for his master ; and he had been settled there about two years when Mr. Moundfort first become known to them.

Madame Du Val was naturally a dissipated character, and in Paris she found that even an old woman could command admirers. She soon fell into the hands of a designing spendthrift, and eloped with him, taking every valuable that they could collect ; and, indeed, it was strongly suspected that her husband countenanced the flight, as no person

knew what road he took when he left Paris.

It may naturally be supposed that Angelina was much afflicted at being left in such a distressing situation : she was now, indeed, alone in the world, for she knew not a single being to whom she could apply to for assistance. Every thing regarding her was wrapt in impenetrable mystery, and it appeared totally impossible to her ever to be able to hit on any clue by which she could find out her relatives. Even Mr. Moundfort's family she knew nothing of, as he had never, in any one instance, named a single person with whom he had any connection.

Mrs. Stewart did all in her power to meliorate the affliction of the orphan, and under her hospitable roof she found every attention she could wish ; but Mrs. Stewart had a limited income, and Angelina felt that she had no right to

diminish that lady's comforts by becoming burthensome to her ; she therefore determined to exert the abilities which she possessed, and she applied to her friend to make some inquiries amongst her English acquaintances for such a situation as she thought Angelina could fill. This Mrs. Stewart promised she would immediately do, and in a few weeks the orphan was received into the family of a lady of quality, whose delicate health compelled her to be frequently at home, and, having few resources in herself, she was in search of a companion who could contribute to her amusement, write for her, &c. &c.

Lady V—— was soon returning to England, as she found that her residence in France had not been productive of those salutary effects on her health, which she had flattered herself she should have experienced from change of climate. It was her intention to visit Hol-

land before she returned to her native land ; and, as she should not leave Paris for some time, Angelina had an opportunity of forming some idea of the character of the person with whom she was going to reside.

Lady V——, who was at least fifty-five years of age, was still extremely handsome ; but either from ill health, or some other cause, she laboured under a depression of spirits which at times was really alarming, as she would for days together shut herself up, and not admit any person into her presence. She had not any children, and Lord V—— was in England ; therefore her establishment consisted only of such servants as were indispensable for her comfort and attendance. She had also two nieces with her ; but, as they were immersed in all the gaieties of a fashionable life, she wished for a young lady who could bear confinement to reside with her.

Angelina soon became a great favourite with all the ladies, and she had every reason to suppose that, in her present asylum, she should be as happy as in her extraordinary situation she could expect to be. Mrs. Stewart had made her story known to Lady V——, who took a lively interest in the fate of the orphan, and assured Mrs. Stewart that every means should be exerted to find out the relatives of Miss Dalrymple.

In a short time Angelina became so attached to Lady V——, that she felt quite a parental affection for her; and in the society of Angelina she seemed to recover that cheerfulness to which she had long been a stranger. Wherever she went, she always took the orphan: if she felt melancholy, the melodious voice and plaintive tones of Angelina's harp would soothe her sorrow.

When they arrived at Amsterdam, the orphan recollected that Mr. Moundfort

had told her that he gave her father a letter to a Mr. Vanneck, of that place, and she flattered herself, that, through them, she might gain some intelligence of her parent ; accordingly she inquired for the house of Vanneck and Company, and, upon being introduced to them, made known her business : but who can express her astonishment, when they assured her that they had never known any person of the name of Moundfort ? She then begged them to recollect whether a gentleman of the name of Dalrymple had not, about seventeen years since, brought a letter of recommendation to their house, in consequence of which they had procured him a passage to England : she told them that she was particularly interested in this inquiry, as the gentleman was her father.

Mr. Vanneck, seeing her distress, told her that he perfectly knew the circumstance to which she alluded, but

since that period he had not heard of the gentleman. If she was going to England, he told her he would give her an address to a person in London who probably could and would give her some satisfactory intelligence respecting the persons for whom she inquired. This offer in a small degree lessened the disappointment she had recently experienced in the fruitlessness of her inquiries, as she hoped that the packet entrusted to her care would be the means of at least introducing her to some of Mr. Moundfort's connections.

They reached England without experiencing any thing unpleasant in their journey, and landed at Margate, where Lady V—— proposed remaining some weeks, to recover the fatigues of her voyage.

Angelina felt a secret satisfaction for which she could not account on setting her feet on English ground. They were

soon joined by Lord V—— and his two nephews, and, as Miss Dalrymple understood the English language, she was at no loss on that account.

Lord V—— was fast approaching to his last home ; but, being vampt up, he appeared many years younger than he was. He was a professed debauchee, and he eyed the interesting Angelina with evident delight : she received his attentions and presents with that frankness which ever accompanies the actions of a grateful heart for benefits conferred.

The two nephews were of very opposite characters : the eldest, who had recently lost his elder brother, and had by that event become heir apparent to an earldom, was a description of person whom Angelina had never had any conception of : he was a complete sportsman and jockey, and his dress, manners, and conversation, perfectly corresponded with the character. It appeared to her

a most lamentable consideration, that the heir to a title, a man of education, should forego the pleasures of his rank and expectations, merely to enjoy driving vehicles like stage coaches, and the delight in following a pack of hounds in the destruction of a helpless and frequently a harmless animal.

The Greeks, she had read, encouraged the pleasures of the race and chase, but they did not adopt it to introduce the pernicious vice of gaming; and she could not reconcile it to her feelings, in this enlightened age, to see Nobles warmly patronise such a destructive propensity, more especially as they knew that advantage was taken of them, and that even their vassals laughed at them for their folly.

Lord M——, however, could not see Angelina without confessing that she was very handsome; and, as he boasted of the finest stud, the handsomest car-

riages, and the best dogs in the kingdom, he thought, in obtaining her, he should add the most beautiful mistress to his collection of valuables ; never presuming that a pennyless dependant could refuse the immense settlement which he presumed to offer.

Miss Dalrymple, at first, did not comprehend him ; but, when he addressed her in such plain terms as shocked her delicacy, she did not condescend to make any reply, but left the room.

She now, indeed, felt her unprotected situation : she was even debarred the greatest alleviation of the troubles and cares of life, as she had not the comfort or relaxation of a friend whom she could consult on this trying occasion. To appeal to Lady V——, would be to agitate her delicate frame, and probably occasion her a fit of sickness. If she spoke to Lord M——'s sisters, it would, in her opinion, be indelicate to communicate to

such near relations the depravity of their kindred: she therefore, after a long debate in her own mind, determined to speak to Lord V——, and abide by his advice.

When he returned from his morning ride, she attended him; but, on entering his dressing-room, she was met by Augustus Davenport.

“This is an unexpected pleasure, Miss Dalrymple, to meet you here. What do you do with yourself? for in this scene of gaiety you are quite a recluse.”

“To confess the truth,” replied Angelina, “I have particular business with your uncle. I was in hopes of meeting with him alone; but, as we have met, may I exhort a promise from you, that you will not, to any person living, divulge having seen me in his Lordship’s apartments?”

Augustus, with a low bow, assured Miss Dalrymple that her wishes should

strictly be complied with ; but he said this with such an impressive tone, that the orphan's spirits were extremely depressed, and she burst into tears. Augustus took her hand.

“ For God's sake, what is the matter ? Would to God that you thought me worthy to participate in what afflicts you ! ”

Before she could reply, Lord V—— appeared : he looked at her with astonishment, and the precipitate retreat of his nephew also surprised him ; but, when Angelina recited to him the treatment which she had received from Lord M——, he became perfectly composed, approved of the confidence which she had placed in him, and requested that she would on all occasions apply to him when she wanted advice : he assured her that she should receive no further insult from his nephew ; desired she would not mention the subject to any other

person ; to behave as if nothing had passed ; and that in a few days he would send him off.

When they met at dinner, for the first time in her life Angelina experienced the dreadful sensation of *mauvaise hôte*. She was ashamed of meeting Lord M—— after the insult she had received from him ; and her colour rose when Augustus entered. He sat by her, and, by those delicate attentions which description cannot do justice to, made her forget the unpleasantness of her situation.

Augustus Davenport to a majestic person joined a refined mind ; he belonged to Oxford, as he was studying for the Bar ; and his manners, disposition, and pursuits, were the exact counterpart of his brother's. Rural sports, with him, were not pursued with a greater attention and importance than was conducive to health and a manly relaxation : he considered that, when they lead the rich and liberal

into company and occupations which degrade their dignity, they cease to be rational amusements. He admired the brute creation in their respective departments. If fidelity and generosity are lovely qualities, the dog and horse have strong claims to share our affection ; but they who circumscribe their ideas to a stable, who pass more time with irrational animals than in the society of their fellow creatures, are in great danger of assimilating with their nature, and acquiring a brutal ferocity.

Lord M—— left Margate the following day, to the great joy of our heroine. Her usual spirits returned, and, as she possessed a mind which could derive ample amusement from studying men and manners, she was in a place which gave full scope for amusement.

On her entering the bathing-room, a general silence prevailed : every one stared her in the face, as her dress did not

exactly correspond with the English fashion ; and, supposing that she did not understand the language, they made no secret of their opinion. This rather confused her ; but her attention was soon taken up by the ludicrous scene which she witnessed ; a lean-looking figure with one eye was congratulating a lady on her improved looks, whose face was the colour of a china orange. This salutation was seconded by an old woman who sat in the next chair shaking like a mandarine. A poor crippled creature addressed a fine healthy girl, with a solicitation to dance with him at Dandelion. Every one was describing their own case, and all giving a dissertation on the good qualities which the sea possessed ; but, in general, so contradictory, that Angelina learned, from their opinions, that salt water both thinned and thickened the blood—it strengthened and it weakened—it made people fat—it

also made them lean—it braced and it relaxed—in fact, it was a cure for all diseases, and still it was good for nothing.

As she approached near the balustrade, she saw a curious figure, with a red night-cap on, wrapped in a great coat. When the last machine drove off, one of the company asked if he bathed.

“Not I, truly! It is quite diversion enough to see others make fools of themselves.—It is amusing to see all the folks here take to the water like spaniels; and if one believed all the people say of the efficacy of the sea, if it were not for broken bones, all our hospitals might be destroyed.”

The gentleman observed, that the virtue of salt water might be overrated, but he considered it as an instrument of health to many.

“You, Sir, are fortunate to have no occasion to try its efficacy.”

“Indeed, Sir, you are mistaken. I am

ordered to remain here three months by one of the first physicians in London—to walk two hours every morning, and the same length of time in the evening—to smell the sea mud.”

At hearing this, Angelina could not refrain from laughing ; and she expressed her astonishment to Augustus, that so wise a nation as the English were represented could be so easily imposed on.

“If you are already astonished,” he replied, “at what appears to you imposition, your astonishment will be indeed augmented, when you see the various ridiculous sights which are every day exhibited in London, and which the wisest persons flock to see.”

As the autumn was now far advanced, preparations were making for their journey to London, as they had remained much longer in Margate than they at first intended. Lady V—— insisted upon Angelina frequenting every place

of amusement; but they could only get her to go once to each, for the music at the libraries was such discord, that it was disagreeable to her correct ear. The grotesque figures which exhibited on the platform at Dandelion did well enough to laugh at, but a repetition of such wretched buffoonery would be insupportable.

The Master of the Ceremonies' ball was announced, and Lady V—— was prevailed on to accompany her nieces to the rooms: Angelina declined going, but she was not suffered to follow her inclination. A large party were assembled in the drawing-room when the orphan made her appearance. All the men solicited the honour of dancing with her, but Augustus had secured her for the first two dances in the morning. Her dress was a white crape frock over a white slip, her auburn hair confined by a bondeau of pearls, with a diamond

clasp in front ; she wore a pearl necklace and ear-rings : her ornaments had been presented to her by Mr. Moundfort, and were extremely valuable : the simplicity of her dress was very advantageous to her figure. The heat of the ball-room gave additional animation to her intelligent countenance, which had that expression, that, when she spoke, every one listened with profound attention, and not any person could be in her company without wishing to remain in it.

A general inquiry prevailed to know who the beautiful foreigner was ; and Lady V—— laughing, told her, that, in future, she should keep her at home, as otherwise she should lose her companion.

The Lady Davenports always behaved with the greatest kindness to Angelina ; but they were that description of persons, that they only estimated people by their rank ; and, if Miss Dalrymple had

not been mistress of accomplishments which placed her in a conspicuous light, they would have treated her as a dependant on their aunt's bounty : but Lady V——, on all occasions, expressed such a regard for Angelina, and shewed her such respect, that they were compelled to follow her example.

Before leaving Margate, Lord V—— presented the ladies with some valuable presents : he always shewed the greatest attention to the orphan, and her trinket was of equal value with the rest. In turns with his nieces, he drove her in his cur-ricule : on these occasions Augustus always looked grave, and sometimes, in conversation, had hinted that young women could not be too careful in whom they confided.

The road from Margate to London gave Angelina a very favourable impression of England. The harvest was not all housed ; the hop-grounds were

in full beauty ; and she thought that the luxuriance of the country equalled any thing she had yet seen.

Rich is thy soil, and merciful thy clime ;
 Thy streams unfailing in the Summer's drought ;
 Unmatch'd thy guardian oaks ; thy vallies float
 With golden waves ; and on thy mountains flocks
 Bleat numberless ; while roving round their sides,
 Bellow the blackening herds in lusty droves.
 Beneath thy meadows glow, and rise unquell'd
 Against the mower's scythe. On every hand
 Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth.

On their arrival in Cavendish-square, they were met by Lord and Lady G——, with Lord M——. The latter addressed Angelina with a familiarity which she by no means approved. The Lady Davenports returned home, and Angelina, of course, now became the inseparable companion of Lady V——. The more she was with that lady, her affection for her increased ; and it grieved her to see that her patroness laboured

under some secret grief, which she endeavoured to conceal by pleading indisposition. Her behaviour to her husband was always kind and respectful ; his was complaisant : but there appeared to want that intercourse of soul, which Angelina thought was absolutely necessary to render the marriage state happy.

As soon as she could with propriety name the subject, she consulted Lady V—— upon the method that she should adopt to gain information of her father, and his Lordship took upon him to make the necessary inquiries. But who can describe the orphan's consternation, when she looked for the packet given her by Mr. Vanneck, to find that it was gone ? Where she had left it, or how she had lost it, she could not conceive.

Immediately she flew to Lord V——, stating her disappointment, and entreating that he would send to Margate to have the lodgings searched. In the midst

of her request Augustus entered, and, seeing them engaged in close consultation, he was in the act of withdrawing; when Angelina requested that he would enter, and her manner was such as to convince him she wished him to stay. She hinted what had been the subject of their conversation, when Augustus said he would himself go in quest of the packet. Lord V—— made several objections to this; but Davenport overruled them all, and he set off for Kent the same evening.

Lady V—— went out very little, and, as she was desirous of Angelina's seeing the Opera and other public places, she requested Lady G—— to be her *chaperone*; but, although that lady complied with her wishes, it was evident she did not like such an addition to her party, for the beauty of the orphan attracted universal admiration; and, although the Lady Davenports had a very

high opinion of their own persons and accomplishments, yet they soon felt that, in Angelina's company, they appeared to great disadvantage.

Lord M——, finding that he had offended the orphan by his insolent offer, now behaved very differently to her ; in fact, to his great astonishment, he found that she was become quite as necessary to his happiness as his horses or dogs : but he knew that his lady mother, whose opinion was a law in their family, would never consent to his espousing his aunt's companion ; he therefore determined to marry her privately, and accordingly he took an opportunity of making these sentiments known to the object of his wishes.

Angelina thanked him for the honour he intended her ; but, even if his relations condescended to sanction what he thought would constitute his happiness, she should be compelled to decline any

overtures of marriage till she knew her father's wishes respecting her future plans in life. She felt that she had no right to dispose of herself.

Lord M—— shewed great resentment at this rejection, as, from the manner, he was certain that it proceeded from dislike to him. From this period he treated her with incivility, and she found being in his company extremely unpleasant. Whenever she went into public, Lord V—— never left her side. He watched all her motions, and shewed evident dislike to Lord M——. He taxed Angelina with encouraging his addresses.

When she candidly informed him of his offer, and her reply, he approved of her conduct, and made her promise that she would always tell him of any overtures which she might receive of the same nature; for he assured her that he had her interest much at heart, and that

he should always advise her for her happiness: "For, indeed, my dear girl, I fear you must look upon me as your only protector, as the accounts which I have received from the India House are far from favourable: they have had no intelligence of Major Dalrymple since he went up the country; but, as there is not any mention made of him in the returns of either killed or wounded, there is a probability that he still exists. As it is nearly three years since any intelligence has been heard of him, in my opinion it is doubtful."

The poor orphan attended to this dreadful account of her parent with desponding composure: she now considered that she had not the least probability of ever being known to any of her relatives, and she depended upon the bounty of others for her maintenance. This was a distressing consideration; but Angelina was not of a desponding

disposition : she severely felt her unfortunate fate ; but she had early imbibed such principles of religion as would support her under every affliction. She felt unbounded gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of all human events for having hitherto protected her, and to repine at his dispensations would be arraigning his mercy.

To add to her distress, Davenport had not proved successful, as he could gain no intelligence of the packet ; but he assured the orphan that he would write to Mr. Vanneck, stating what had happened, and, of course, he would forward another introduction. It would be some time before it could be obtained ; nevertheless she would have the consolation of knowing that eventually she would have it.

Augustus felt for her, and endeavoured to mitigate the unpleasantness of her situation, by shewing her, when in

company, such attention as to prevent her feeling the cool behaviour with which, at times, she was treated by his mother, and sometimes by his sisters.

Lady V——'s health declined daily: she was always kind to Angelina, but latterly she had been more than usually grave, sometimes even pettish in her replies to the orphan. Angelina imputed this to her indisposition, and redoubled her endeavours to amuse her patroness: but her efforts proved ineffectual; and she had the affliction of perceiving that she no longer possessed the power of dissipating the gloom under which Lady V—— laboured. As she sincerely loved her, she was much mortified at it.

Lady G—— was frequently with them, and Angelina was certain that she was not a favourite of her's. Her spirits forsook her, and she became dejected. Lord V—— observed this, and inquired the cause: she pleaded indis-

position, as she thought it would be wrong of her to make any observations to his Lordship on the subject of her uneasiness, as assuredly she had experienced such kindnesses from Lady V——, and all the family, as demanded her unbounded gratitude.

The time approached when they were to leave town, and a gentleman of independent fortune applied to Lady V—— for her interest with Angelina. He was a Catholic, of good connection, and in every respect a gentleman calculated to render the woman he married happy; but, before Lady V—— could finish the sentence, the orphan gave a decided negative. Her Ladyship looked extremely displeased.

“ Surely, Miss Dalrymple, you might have permitted me to conclude what I was about to say, before you made a reply. Permit me to tell you, that Mr. Godolphin is such a match as you may

not again meet with. Lady G —— would not reject such an alliance for her daughters ; but probably you have other views, or are engaged. Beware how you place your confidence in the other sex. In my opinion, it is more delicate for a young lady to have a female instead of a male confidant.”

The orphan was thunderstruck at this address ; it was delivered in a tone of authority which petrified her : but Angelina, although she was of a gentle disposition, possessed great pride, and she felt that no person had a right to dispose of her in marriage ; she therefore told Lady V —— that she was sensible of Mr. Godolphin's worth, and that an alliance with him would be very advantageous ; but although she admired his accomplishments, and could not but feel pleased in his society, yet she was decided not to accept of his hand ; indeed, she should reject all of-

fers, till she could ascertain to whom she belonged. In respect to her having a male confidant, she was ignorant to whom her Ladyship alluded : as she had no secrets, consequently she had not any thing to communicate. This was said with such an innocent countenance, that Lady V—— felt confused for having addressed her so harshly. She took her hand.

“ Well, well, my dear : if you will not have Godolphin, I must break your refusal to him in the best manner I can ; but I fear he will hang himself in his garters, or die of despair.”

She then left the room. Angelina's heart was full, and she sobbed aloud. Her back was to the door : she remained some minutes almost suffocated with sorrow. Upon turning round, she saw Davenport. She would have fled, but he intercepted her passage.

“ You cannot, you must not go, my

sweet friend! Your grief afflicts me more sensibly than you imagine. Do, then, tell me from what it proceeds, and how I can serve you. Accept of me as your confidant; rest assured that I will never betray the sacred trust, for you are dearer to me than life."

Angelina sunk upon a chair, and hid her face. For the first time, she was apprised that Augustus was not indifferent to her; but his mentioning her making him her confident, brought forcibly to her recollection what had recently fallen from his aunt. She felt frightened, and incapable of making any reply.

Augustus continued: "You know the secret of my heart, Angelina. The situation in which I found you put me off my guard; for I meant to conceal my sentiments till I was in a situation to offer you an independence. Alas! I am dependant on my father; and to obtain his consent to our union at present,

even if I was so blessed as to meet with your concurrence, I fear would be impracticable."

"Alas! Sir," replied Angelina, "too well I know my situation; and that an orphan, who has neither family nor fortune to recommend her to the alliance of the great, can only expect to be rejected with scorn. But, however mean my expectations, I possess a mind superior to my situation, and I will never enter into any family who are not even anxious to receive me. As the only friends I have on earth are your relations, let me entreat that this conversation may never be repeated, for I have no home nor relative to receive me."

"Angelina, you distress me beyond measure! My regard for you is unalterable, and my fate is in your hands; give me, then, some hope! In two years I inherit a small estate from my grandmother, sufficient to procure us all the com-

forts of life; and, when my father sees that my happiness depends on marrying you, he probably will consent to my wishes. Only tell me that you have not accepted of Godolphin !”

“Dissimulation forms no part of my character,” replied Angelina ; “I will therefore candidly say that you are not indifferent to me : but my rejection of Mr. Godolphin did not proceed from any predilection in your favour. I am resolved never to change my situation till I know the fate of my father, and to what family I belong.”

Augustus could not prevail on the orphan to engage herself to him ; and she seemed so exhausted, and her spirits so depressed, that she retired to her room, and was incapable of attending the summons to dinner.

Lady V—— visited her, and was extremely alarmed at finding Angelina in a high fever. She insisted upon sending

for a physician, who assured Lord V—— that his patient had very alarming symptoms; that it was absolutely necessary that she should be kept extremely quiet. The following morning he declared her complaint to be the scarlet fever. It was several weeks before the orphan was sufficiently recovered to join the family party.

During this period, the youngest Lady Matilda Davenport frequently sat with Angelina, and appeared to take a warmer interest in her welfare than she had ever before evinced: she sometimes read part of Augustus's letters. As he had returned to Oxford during Angelina's confinement, he mentioned the orphan in such delicate terms, that his sister hinted she feared that he had lost his heart.

On these occasions Angelina never made any reply, for she dreaded lest any of the family should know the partiality

which he entertained for her, being convinced that they would no longer permit her to remain with them; and she flattered herself, from the great kindness and attention shewn to her by Lady V—— during her illness, that she was quite reinstated in that lady's favour.

As soon as Angelina felt sufficiently renovated to endure the fatigue of a long journey, they set off for the North of England, where Lord V—— had a favourite residence: it was near Harrogate, and they expected, in the course of the summer, to have a house full of company.

To the great astonishment of every one, Lord V—— put off his intended excursion into Wales, that he might escort Lady V——. When he made the offer, the orphan thought it was received with great coldness on the lady's part: this she could not account for, as, on all occurrences, Lady V—— act-

ed with great propriety, and was naturally of an amiable disposition ; therefore it appeared strange that she should shew any dissatisfaction at having the company of her husband.

CHAP. IV.

Much learning shews how little mortals know ;
 Much wealth, how little worldlings can enjoy.
 At best it babies us with endless toys,
 And keeps us children till we drop to dust.
 As monkeys at a mirror stand amaz'd,
 They fail to find what they so plainly see ;
 Thus men in shining riches see the face
 Of happiness, nor know it is a shade ;
 But gaze, and touch, and peep, and peep again
 And wish, and wonder it is absent still.

It is now requisite to give some account of Lady V——'s ancestry, as they have all cut a conspicuous figure in the fashionable world.

Her grandfather, the Duke of B——, was descended from an illustrious house ; and, as they possessed great family pride, they did not consider any of the nobility as proper alliances for their children.

He married a German princess, by whom he had several sons and daughters, all of whom received the most liberal educations ; and Nature had been so bountiful to them, that in beauty and accomplishments they surpassed every other family in the kingdom, or probably in the world. The exalted sphere in which they moved, and the great influence which their rank and connections gave them, surrounded the young people with numerous flatterers, but very few friends: all contributed to promote their pleasures, without considering what would eventually secure their felicity, and consequently their respectability.

The heir apparent immersed into every scene of dissipation which presented itself, and, of course, was soon involved in debts ; his constitution injured ; and, instead of attaining that happiness in which he had been in constant pur-

suit, he experienced only remorse, for having appropriated to the worthless the time and property which he could have so much better employed.

Nor were his brothers backward in following his example. After various intrigues, the Marquis of K—— (now Duke of B——) became enamoured of a widow who was considerably older than himself, and of the Catholic persuasion. Report circulated that he was married to her: this intelligence created considerable alarm in the breasts of his parents, and the Duchess of B—— thought it advisable that he should marry. She proposed to him a relation, who was a foreigner of rank, possessed of great accomplishments, and whose alliance they considered very desirable; but he was decidedly against entering into any engagement of the kind, nor could she by any means prevail upon him to listen to any overtures on the

subject. Finding him so averse to the measure proposed, she desisted.

But his extravagancies in a short time accomplished what she had been incapable of achieving; for his creditors became so pressing, that he was compelled to apply to his father for assistance; but the only terms, however, on which he consented to liquidate his debts, were, that he should espouse the lady who had been proposed to him by his mother, the alliance being in every respect such as accorded with their ideas of pedigree.

The Marquis still pleaded his great aversion to become a benedict; but the Duke and Duchess were inexorable; and at length, with the greatest reluctance, he united his faith with Aminda de Condé: but his affections were so devoted to the widow, that, although the lady he married had great personal attractions, to him it was a

joyless union : nor was it more agreeable to his wife ; her heart had been for many years in the possession of an officer, but her relations objected to such an alliance, and absolutely forced her to accept of the Marquis of K——. It was not probable that such a match would be productive of connubial felicity, but, from the rank and education of the parties, it was natural to suppose that they would behave with complaisance to each other, as at least to avoid public censure.

On his marriage, his favourite widow forbade him her house ; in consequence of which he fell into the snare of a woman of quality, who made no secret of her illicit connection, as the great have few discreet persons in their suit. The Marquis's infidelity was soon communicated to Arminda ; but, instead of endeavouring by gentleness and every feminine attraction to recal him to virtue

and conjugal affection, by a violence unbecoming her situation, she for ever severed even the bond of friendship.— She had been educated at a foreign court ; her behaviour was accompanied with a levity very repugnant to his ideas of propriety ; and she had an indelicacy in her manner that disgusted him, before he could barely tolerate these failings. They now became insupportable ; and in a few weeks after the birth of a son, to appearance by mutual consent, they separated ; upon which the lady of quality (who, to her shame, was the mother of a large family) was discarded, and the widow once more enjoyed the supreme felicity of reigning prime favourite.

But although the Marquis and his brothers indulged in every fashionable vice, and had by their intrigues cast desolation in numerous respectable families, yet they were naturally benevolent, just, and generous : they were

wicked from fashion, not from inclination; and their munificence, and the numerous charitable institutions which originated from their representation and influence, endeared them to that part of the world which judges not merely from events, but can make allowances for the causes which produced them; but, alas! this is not the most numerous part of the community; and too frequently, when the family were spoken of, only the profligate part of their characters was the subject of conversation, and the many virtues they possessed were entirely forgotten.

Had the Duke and Duchess of B—— possessed less pride, their children would have been an ornament to their country, and the excellence of their hearts would have rendered them a blessing to the community: they, in fact, were more to be pitied than blamed, as all their follies (not to say vices) originated from

the Duke and Duchess of B—— not having sufficient prudence to reduce the splendor of their own establishment, which would enable them to increase the incomes of their offspring, that they might support their rank without incurring debts, and be able to indulge themselves in the greatest of all earthly happiness,---that of administering to the wants of the distressed : instead of which, they had been educated in every luxury ; they never knew what it was to have a wish ungratified, totally ignorant of the value of money : consequently the disposal of their property was left at the mercy of their dependants.

The Duke and Duchess never considered, that, however exalted their rank, still their children were but men, and liable to the same passions as the meanest peasant. They prohibited their marrying, from which privation they attached themselves to females whose

course of life precluded them from mixing in virtuous society, and whose vitiated morals could neither improve the head nor heart, but, on the contrary, prove pernicious to those with whom they associated. In some instances it had the most baneful effects, by frequently perverting the designs of their charitable donations; for, when a female was wanted to superintend the education of poor children, the meritorious candidates were rejected to make room for the friend of some nobleman's mistress. In one instance this had occasioned great discontent. Several respectable persons had petitioned for such a situation, when, to their great regret, the person elected was a woman who had lived some years with an officer, after which he married her; but her conduct, when a wife, was not sufficiently correct to induce the ladies of the corps in which her husband served to visit her. The nobleman who insti-

tuted this charity bore all the blame, as the nomination rested with him, while he alone was the only person ignorant of the character of the person whom he had elected.

But the world did not consider that the sphere in which he moved precluded him from personally ascertaining the respectability of the candidates : he depended on those whom he considered as his friends, thinking them competent to decide on such an important occasion. It never entered his imagination that gentlemen of rank, some of whom were fathers, could so far disgrace themselves, and injure the rising generation, as to appoint a female of vicious habits to superintend the morals of infants ; but, as has been before observed, the world in general only judges from events, consequently these brothers suffered in the general opinion.

The females of this family were not more fortunate than their brothers : the

Duchess of B—— kept them secluded from the world ; they passed the prime of life in absolute solitude ; they were formed by nature to become useful and conspicuous ornaments in society, but the avarice and ambition of their parents doomed them to experience only sorrow ; they also could not obtain the Duke's consent to their marrying, no offer having presented itself where pedigree was sufficiently ancient to mix with their noble blood.

The Duchess never reflected, that, although her daughters were beautiful, accomplished, and wise, yet they were but women, and possessed all the frailties attached to human nature. They seldom quitted their father's house, but numerous officers waited on him, some of whom could not see the beautiful inmates of the Castle without feeling the effect of their charms. The ladies were not insensible to merit : the consequence was, that they formed clandestine marriages.

The stolen interviews of these virtuous couples were discovered ; and as the community seldom put the most favourable constructions on doubtful appearances, the ladies' prudence were questioned ; scandalous reports circulated ; and the lawful offspring of these marriages were sent to different parts of the country to be educated ; and women, who were calculated to have performed all the endearing and affectionate duties of a mother, were debarred that sacred happiness.

One of these ladies sunk under the fatal secrecy that was attached to her situation. A rumour prevailed that she was pregnant, and every one watched her with anxious expectation ; but she eluded their vigilance. Report circulated that a slight indisposition confined her for ten days to her apartment, at the expiration of which period she appeared in public ; but this exertion, after her ly-

ing-in, brought on a decline, which gained rapidly on her constitution, from the unhappiness of her delicate mind, which received a severe shock from being sensible that, in the opinion of the world, she was considered to be a very dubious character. She lingered for some time ; but, being the favourite daughter of the Duke of B——, her death had such an effect on him, that he died in a few months ; nor did the Duchess long survive.

The present Duke of B—— succeeded to the titles and estate of his father. On this great accession he behaved with that justice and generosity which ever reigned in his heart. The first thing he did was to pay all his debts, and to settle handsome annuities on his brothers and sisters. If, when he was immersed in extravagance, and even vice, allowances were made for him by the people in general. This conduct made him perfectly

adored, and every one regretted that such an amiable nobleman should not be happy in his matrimonial connection ; but, by leading a life of Crim. Con., he tarnished the lustre of his character, and set an example which must be injurious to society.

The Duchess of B—— still resided at a distance from the Duke : her establishment was adequate to her rank ; but she either did not possess good sense, or she did not make use of it. When they separated, their infant son accompanied her ; but, instead of devoting her time to her child, and by mild and patient forbearance in retirement proving herself worthy of residing with her Lord, she launched out into frivolous amusements ; introduced foreign dances at her house, which were considered indelicate by the gravity of the English nation ; and received all descriptions of persons at her table. In a short time she became so involved, that she could

not gain credit for the common necessities of life. The Duke heard of her embarrassment, and, with that generosity and munificence which marked his character, paid all her debts, and increased her income.

Previously to this period, the young Marquis of K—— had been taken from his mother, and proper persons appointed to superintend his education. The Duchess, in one of her summer excursions, met with a child of uncommon beauty: she took such a fancy to the infant, that she adopted it, and had it christened after herself. The young Arminda gained every day on the Duchess's affection: as she increased in years, no expence was spared to render her as amiable and as accomplished as she was beautiful. While the Duchess amused herself with her protégée, the Duke was anxiously employed in forming the mind of his son; and, to the asto-

nishment of every one, he instilled into his heir those sentiments of religion and virtue, which, from his former conduct, no one imagined he possessed.

At fifteen, the Marquis of K—— was sent abroad, where he resided till he completed his eighteenth year. On his return, he was caressed by every one, and considered the most accomplished young man of the age: but Frederick had a gravity of deportment which seldom accompanied his time of life; and, as he was a most affectionate son, it was presumed by his friends that the difference which still existed between his parents occasioned this melancholy. The Duchess was proud of her son, and his affectionate attention to her was extremely flattering to her feelings.

Arminda was just entering her sixteenth year when the Marquis of K—— was introduced to her. She was, in his opinion, the most fascinating object he

had ever beheld. The frequent opportunities they had of meeting made them perfectly acquainted with each other's accomplishments, and a mutual attachment rendered them, in their opinion, perfectly happy.

The Duke of B—— never took the least notice of Arminda, and, when his son mentioned her name in conversation, it evidently was disagreeable to him. How his father could dislike such a divine creature, was to him an enigma. The Marquis of K—— felt convinced that he could not be happy without Arminda, and she blushing confessed that he was most dear to her.

Frederick was religious, he was dutiful, and possessed every manly virtue ; but at eighteen example has great influence : he saw his father and uncles living in open adultery ; his aunts had married privately—why should not he do the same with Arminda for his companion ?

A desert would be preferable to a palace without her, and, to reside in France, his income would afford them not only the comforts but the luxuries of life ; added to which, he was in his heart a Catholic.

When he was a boy, much of his time was passed with the Duke's favourite widow. The pomp and splendor of her chapel attracted his attention. A French priest saw that his young friend wavered, and he, by reasoning and art, gained him to the Catholic faith. His traveling abroad had finished what was begun at home ; but, being presumptive heir to a dukedom, it was necessary he should conceal his principles with the greatest caution.

To Arminda he entrusted the secret : she was young, thoughtless, and in love, and was easily prevailed on to make both herself and Frederick happy. His friend the priest united them ; and for nearly one year the young couple enjoyed as

much happiness as is possible for mortals to do, under such circumstances. But, alas! the ways of Providence are inscrutable to humanity. Thus frequently we see the benevolent, the virtuous, and the wise, visited by the greatest misfortunes, while the wicked thrive and prosper.

Arminda's person promised to discover what they were so anxious to conceal: the Duchess of B—— questioned her respecting her altered shape; and at last it was resolved that the Marquis of K—— should inform his mother of their union, for the gentleness of the Marchioness's character made her very unequal to such a discovery.

Accordingly the Marquis sought a favourable opportunity for making the disclosure; but, during the recital, the Duchess appeared in such agitation, even in such agony, that he stopped. Scarcely breathing, she said,

“Proceed ! proceed ! for God’s sake tell me to whom ! Ease my distracted mind. Oh ! convince me that I am in an error ; that I have not by adultery ruined my children !”

The Marquis was terrified ; he feared that his mother’s intellects were affected, and he remained silent.

“Oh ! speak, Frederick,” she exclaimed, “for I am on the wrack !”

“Then, my dearest mother, I entreat you to pardon your son, and acknowledge Arminda as your daughter !”

The Duchess, with a piercing sigh and groan, replied,

“I am indeed a wretch !—Arminda, Frederick, is your sister !” and she left him in a state of mind which no pen can describe.

Arminda, finding he was alone, entered to hear how far he had proceeded in the disclosure of their union ; but he darted past her like lightning, mounted

his horse, and left her in the greatest consternation ; and what considerably augmented her astonishment was, that the Duchess, although confined to her room by severe indisposition, would not see her.

The Marquis immediately disclosed his situation, and advised with his favourite priest how he should act on this distressing occasion. The Duchess, as soon as she was sufficiently recovered to bear any retrospection of the past, requested an interview with her son : he attended her, when she confessed that Arminda was her child by the officer to whom she was engaged when she was compelled to marry his father ; but she shewed such despair and contrition for her past life, that the Marquis of K—— did all in his power to console her, and, upon her swearing to abide by his wishes, he promised that her adultery should not be made public :—so beautiful is virtue,

that the most wicked are anxious to assume its semblance ; and she was most thankful to accede to any wishes of her sons, to obtain concealment of her Crim. Con. connection.

The Marquis then mournfully informed her, that he had decided on his future fate ; that he was of the Roman church ; and that he designed to pass the remainder of his life abroad, where he could freely exercise that religion. As to Arminda, he would never see her more : he made her vow that she should never be informed that she was his sister, as he was sure, if the intelligence did not kill her, it would embitter every moment of her life ; that he should go into the country immediately, where it would be reported that he had died suddenly. Arminda, he knew, would be very severely afflicted at his loss ; but that affliction would be light in comparison of knowing the truth.

“ On you, Madam,” said he, “ I depend to treat her with the greatest kindness on the approaching occasion. As for her reputation, concealment is necessary. Send the unfortunate fruit of our unhappy union to me : it will be the only consolation I shall have in my solitary peregrination in this world.”

The Duchess of B——, in the most solemn manner, swore to perform most religiously his orders. The parting was extremely affecting, and for several months the Duchess's life was in imminent danger. The news of the Marquis's death so afflicted Arminda, that it brought on a premature accouchement ; and her infant had scarcely breathed before she was committed to the care of a faithful attendant, who had orders to convey the child abroad.

Arminda recovered very slowly ; but youth and a good constitution at length overcame the shock which her constitu-

tion had experienced. She was told that her child was still-born. Thus, in one week, the hapless Arminda was bereft of every tie which could make this life desirable; but she was so miserable at seeing the Duchess of B—— in such a dejected state, that she exerted herself to amuse her benefactress: these efforts proved very advantageous to herself, and in a few months Arminda was melancholy, but she was resigned, and she ever remained in the same placid state. She mixed in society, because those with whom she associated did. Her greatest pleasure was attending to the poor, relieving their wants, and promoting their welfare; but Arminda never forgot the Marquis of K——, and her heart could never form such another attachment.

The Duke of B—— in his son's death felt the severest sorrow he had ever known for some time: not all that could

be invented to amuse him had any effect. Even the company of his favourite widow was become insipid ; and he now found that, as age advances, those who have not an approving conscience, and have not resources in themselves, have a melancholy prospect in the vale of years.

The Duchess of B——, when she supposed herself to be dying, many years after, confessed that Arminda was her daughter ; and the Duke, although it was told him, never took any public notice of it ; but he consulted some eminent persons in the law ; and the general opinion was, that measures were taken to secure the titles and estates of the Duke of B—— to his brother, and that he did this from the near relationship the Duchess bore to his family, and that he could not bring himself to discard her with infamy.

When Arminda was informed of her

consanguinity to the Duchess of B——, her affliction sunk her into a state of desponding lethargy, and, to rouse her from these alarming symptoms, she was taken to different watering places. Several overtures of marriage had been made to her, all of which she rejected, and felt even a degree of horror at forming any matrimonial engagement. But Lord V—— was a man of great gallantry and little delicacy: he was accustomed to have all his wishes gratified; and although Arminda refused his suit, and avoided his society, still he persevered in tormenting her. He gamed with the Duchess, and made himself so agreeable to her, that she became a powerful advocate in his favour, and all the tears, prayers, and entreaties of Arminda could not avail.

The Duchess reasoned with her daughter; she represented that the object of her affections was dead, and, even if

living, that he must be the same as dead to her ; consequently, that it was folly, nay even wicked, to pass her life in un-availing regret : that the match proposed was a most splendid alliance ; and that to see Arminda the wife of Lord V—— was the wish nearest her heart. After two years' persecution, Arminda became the Countess of V——.

For marriage is a matter of more worth
Than to be dealt with by attorneyship.

* * * * *

For what is wedlock forc'd, but hell,
An age of discord and continual strife ?
Whereas the contrary bringeth forth bliss,
And is a pattern of celestial peace.

Lord V—— was fond of show, and the marriage was conducted with the greatest magnificence. For several months Arminda was constantly in public, kept open house, and, from the constant succession of fashionable

amusements, had scarcely time to think.

But Lord V—— was fickle, and, after he had obtained Arminda, he soon ceased to value her; therefore, at the end of the twelvemonth, she had full liberty to follow what plan of life best suited her inclination, as his Lordship seldom intruded on her retirement, being constantly in pursuit of some beauty or other; and she too frequently, in the public prints, saw his name for *Crim. Con.* She shuddered at perusing it, and returned unfeigned thanks to the Almighty that she had no children, who, from the wickedness of their parent, might, like her, be doomed to misery.

Although Arminda had no affection for her Lord, yet she felt the wretched passion of jealousy, or, more properly speaking, her pride felt mortified, and she, by her placid behaviour, endeavoured to regain his affections; but that

she found impracticable, therefore, for many years, they lived as friends, and behaved to each other with such politeness, that, in general, they were supposed to be as happy as any fashionable couple in high life.

From reasons which vulgar minds cannot define, infidelity is rather a subject of mirth than of sorrow : in the man it is considered a feather in his cap ; and, if the offending fair-one marries the object for whom she was divorced, she is received into the first societies, and more caressed than the quiet unoffending wife, who performs her moral and religious duties by devoting her time to her husband and to her nursery, and rendering all around her happy.

Lady V——, from her disappointment and afflictions in early life, had lost all energy of character ; she was listless, and wanted exertion to follow those amusements in which she excelled.

She was fond of music, and listened with pleasure to others, but never herself touched an instrument. Great part of her time she passed with the Duchess of B——; but this she did as considering it to be her duty, for she could not help attributing to her mother all the misfortunes of her miserable life.

Lady V——'s health declined, and change of climate was recommended. Lord V—— pleaded that his parliamentary attendance prevented his accompanying her; therefore she proceeded with her two nieces and a small suite to Italy, where she remained two years. It was on her return from thence that our heroine was introduced to her at Paris.

CHAP. V.

Art thou dejected ? is thy mind o'ercast ?
 Thy gloom to chase, go, fix some weighty truth ;
 Chain down some passion ; do some gen'rous good ;
 Teach ignorance to see, or grief to smile.
 Correct thy friend ; befriend thy greatest foe ;
 Or, with warm heart, and confidence divine,
 Spring up, and lay strong hold on Him who made thee.

ANGELINA was much pleased with the change of residence: she was fond of Nature. The beautiful views which surrounded Lord V——'s mansion gave her an opportunity of exercising her favourite amusement of drawing.

As she still continued in a languid state, in consequence of her recent indisposition, horse exercise was recommended, and Lord V—— always ac-

accompanied her in her ride. For some time they had not any visitors at Clare Hall, and the orphan passed her time more to her satisfaction than she had done since she lost her beloved Mr. Moundfort. The mornings were devoted to taking the air, reading and drawing, and the evenings to music. Lady V—— appeared to enjoy better health and spirits than Angelina had ever seen her possess.

But this delightful tranquillity was disturbed by the arrival of Lord and Lady G—— and their daughters. From the day after this family made their appearance, the orphan thought she saw a coolness in the manner of her patroness towards her. Lady G—— treated her with a formal civility; the eldest, Lady Sarah Davenport, seldom spoke to her; and she fancied that Lady Matilda was less kind to her than before she left town. To account for this was im-

practicable, as it was the study of her life to oblige and amuse Lady V——.

Angelina was perfectly miserable; for, as she was ignorant how she had given offence, she was incapable of altering her conduct. Lord M—— also made his appearance at the Hall, to the great annoyance of the orphan; for she imagined that Lady G——'s dislike to her proceeded from her suspecting that her son would degrade himself by marrying her; but a few days convinced her that he had given up all thoughts of such an alliance, as he treated her with marked contempt.

Angelina frequently withdrew from the party, and indulged her grief in solitary walks: she wished Augustus was near, as probably he would find out in what she had offended her patroness. She had endeavoured to sound Matilda Davenport on the subject, but she either did not or would not comprehend

her; and although she heard frequently from her brother, she never mentioned his name.

Things were in this state when Mr. Godolphin joined the party at Clare Hall: it was the first time Angelina had seen him since her refusal, and she felt awkward on the occasion; but he addressed her with the greatest composure, and placed himself by her at table; and in his polite manner she found much relief, as, of late, she had experienced great restraint from the behaviour of the visitants.

When the ladies retired to the drawing room, Angelina usually rambled in the park: she had at the boundary, where there was a small village, a few pensioners, and also a school, where she instructed them in making lace. On her return one evening, she was met by Lord M—— and Godolphin: the latter accused her of courting solitude;

upon which Lord M—— replied that she had good reasons for so doing ; but, no doubt, Lord V—— knew how she devoted her time, consequently that was sufficient.

Angelina candidly stated how she had been engaged ; when Lord M—— stared in her face, gave a whistle, and walked away. She was so surprised and abashed at this extraordinary behaviour, that she stood motionless from astonishment. Godolphin was also distressed ; but he addressed the orphan in the kindest language ; assured her that his visit to the Hall was on her account, not to renew his addresses, although he assured her that she was the only woman who could make him happy ; but he was convinced that she was too amiable to sport with the feelings of any one, consequently that she refused him for no trifling reason : but she was unprotected ; that her beauty and igno

rance of the customs of the world rendered her liable to insults which she could not form an idea of; that he solicited the honour of her friendship; and he assured her she would never have reason to repent accepting of him as her friend, for at this moment, he ventured to say, she stood in great need of his advice.

“ I am, indeed,” replied Angelina, “ in want of a friend. I never possessed but one, and I lost him at an age when his advice was most important to my future welfare. In Lady V—— I flattered myself I had found not only a friend, but a mother; but her altered behaviour too plainly evinces that I no longer hold the same place in her affections which I flattered myself I formerly did.”

“ Your situation, indeed, my young friend,” replied Godolphin, “ is very far from what your merit deserves, and

I confess that it is very painful to my feelings to point out where you have incurred the displeasure of Lady V——, because I know the purity of your mind, and that your delicacy will feel a severe shock at the recital : but the sincere regard I have for you compels me to risk even your displeasure, by telling you that the great attention paid you by Lord V—— is disagreeable to his wife, and noticed by his relatives.”

If the orphan was before astonished, she was now absolutely petrified.

“ Is it, then, possible,” she exclaimed, “ that any person can be so wicked as to suppose that such an old man as Lord V—— can pay any other than a benevolent attention to a woman of my age !—and can the mild and amiable Lady V—— entertain such a despicable opinion of me, as to imagine I would listen to the addresses of a married man !”

“ Trifles light as air,
Are, to the jealous, confirmation strong
As proofs of holy writ ;”

replied Mr. Godolphin, “ and my journey into Yorkshire was to apprise you of your danger. Lord V—— has always been considered a man of gallantry, and your beauty alone is sufficient to create you many enemies. Lady G—— dislikes you, because, when you are present, her daughters are never looked at, and she fears that both her sons are in love with you. Lord M——, indeed, suspects that you like his uncle ; and I suspect——dare I say what I fear ?”

Angelina's colour went and came so often, that Godolphin feared she would faint.

“ I find my suspicion,” he continued, “ is right, and that Augustus is not indifferent to you : he is, indeed, an

elegant and amiable young man ; and, as I have no chance of succeeding, I know no one better deserving of you than Davenport : I know but of one objection."

Angelina was going to ask what that objection was, when Lord V—— and some gentlemen appeared ; and the orphan was glad to retire to her chamber, for her senses appeared perfectly bewildered with what she had heard. She required to be alone, that she might reflect on the past, and decide how she should act in future.

After investigating with the strictest scrutiny her own conduct, she could not in any one instance accuse herself with any impropriety in her behaviour. She had always looked upon Lord V—— as an elderly gentleman of experience, whose advice and protection were very beneficial to her ; and the kindness

he had always shewn her, she imputed to his humanity, as in her orphan state she would expect from an adviser.

It was natural that Lady G—— should be averse to her son's forming an alliance with a girl destitute of family or fortune; but that Lady V——, who possessed every feminine virtue, should be jealous of her, lessened that lady greatly in her opinion; and she now, with the most painful sensations, accounted for some observations which had occasionally fallen from Lady V——, which had at the time been totally unintelligible to her.

As to Augustus, she was shocked to find the strong partiality which she entertained for him, because she was sure that his friends would never consent to his union with her. Of Godolphin she thought with the highest sentiments of gratitude and esteem; and, had she never known Davenport,

he would have been the object of her choice: as it was, it would be doing him injustice to unite her fate with his, when her heart was decidedly another's.

She had only received one letter from Mrs. Stewart since she had been in England, and of the good Père St. Paul she had received no intelligence. She could not help repining at her lot, but she knew that unavailing regret could be of no use; and she laid down such a plan for her conduct in future as she was convinced must restore her to the good opinion of the inmates of Clare Hall.

It may be concluded that she passed a sleepless night, and, when she appeared at breakfast, Lord V—— observed with regret her anxious countenance. This observation occasioned her blushing, which was not lessened by perceiving every one looking at her. She complained of a headach, and, when the groom entered for orders, she declined

riding: indeed, she observed that her health was now so perfectly re-established, that in future she should not indulge in an exercise which made her extremely idle, by taking up much of her time which might be more advantageously employed.

Godolphin said, that, as she had declined riding, he would request her company for only half an hour in the greenhouse; for, as she was an excellent botanist, he wished her opinion respecting the properties of a new plant. She acceded to his request, and, as soon as the family rose from table, accompanied him.

“Too plainly I see by your countenance, my young friend,” said Godolphin, “what effect my conversation has had; but you must not all at once decline Lord V——’s attention: by so doing you will create suspicion in him; and it is necessary to avoid so doing, for he is implacable in his resentments.”

“ Whichever way I proceed, whatever I do, I only see danger,” replied the orphan : “ but God knows my heart, and on him I rely to direct me for the best. My foreboding heart makes me tremble for the future. To you, Sir, I shall ever feel most grateful for the interest which you take in my welfare, and I shall at all times be thankful for your opinion. I trust you will find, that, when I act wrong, my head only, not my heart, is in fault.”

“ You can never do otherwise than right, Angelina,” said Godolphin ; “ and allowing me to be your friend is conferring on me great happiness, for it permits me to converse with you, and to admire and know the goodness of your heart. I am soon obliged to go to Ireland : may I presume to hope that Miss Dalrymple will occasionally write to me, as I shall be very anxious to know how you go on ? Lady V—— is a charming

woman ; but, from some secret sorrow, her mind is enervated, and she is apt to be biassed by the opinions of others : at the same time, I am convinced that she has a sincere affection for you, and that only some diabolical measure can induce her to act with injustice to you."

When Angelina entered the Hall, she was met by Lord V——: he bowed, and hoped the agreeable tête-a-tête which she had in her promenade had entirely cured her headache: he said this with a sarcastic smile, and the poor orphan answered with evident confusion. He did not wish to detain her, and she immediately went to Lady V——, and offered to read to her: but her mind was so taken up with the incidents which had recently occurred, that she acquitted herself but badly; and her Ladyship observed, that she believed Miss Dalrymple was thinking of something else than the subject of their study.

The orphan again experienced great confusion, and she thought it was impossible that she could give satisfaction to any one. Some days passed without any particular occurrence; she avoided Lord V——, and devoted all her time to the ladies. Augustus they never mentioned, and Lady Matilda never acknowledged hearing from him, although Angelina knew that she had received letters from Oxford.

Lord V—— became silent and gloomy, and she perceived that he endeavoured to speak with her; but, as she could not alledge any reason for her change of conduct, she avoided being alone with him. One day, in the presence of Lady V——, he requested that she would attend him in his library, as he had some news to communicate to her from India: she of course followed him.

“ Pray be seated, Miss Dalrymple, as

I must have some conversation with you. My correspondent states, that some thousands have been remitted, in the name of Major Dalrymple, to England; that it is now so long since they have heard from him, that, provided I will indemnify his agent, he will pay you the interest of the money. But it will be necessary to have the certificate of your birth; the rest I will settle: for it is my wish to serve you; and why you should fly from me I cannot tell. You refused Godolphin, and now you make him your constant companion. Ungrateful girl! I have done every thing in my power to promote your happiness, and you treat me with neglect."

Angelina was silent, for she knew not how to reply: he saw her distress, and took her hand.

"My dearest girl! restore me to your confidence:--it is necessary to my happiness. Lady V—— was always of

a jealous disposition, and you must not mind her, for I am convinced it is that which has produced the change in your conduct, and it is in vain longer, to conceal my sentiments. I love you, and let me hope that you will listen to my passion, for I cannot live without you."

He still kept her hand, which she was endeavouring to withdraw; when Lady G—— entered.

"Oh! is it so, my Lord? Then I will not interrupt you!" And she immediately retired.

"Good God!" exclaimed the orphan, "what will Lady G—— think? I am ruined. Do, pray, my Lord, follow your sister, and clear up my conduct!"

"Not I, indeed: I do not care for her opinion, nor should you, my dear girl! Therefore, pray cease to weep, and tell me you will make me happy! You may command my fortune."

“ Indeed, my Lord,” replied Angelina, “ your present behaviour is such as I little expected from the husband of my benefactress. Till this moment I felt most grateful for the many kindnesses which you have conferred on me ; but this conduct cancels all obligations, and I can only, in future, feel contempt for a man who has degraded himself, by insulting an helpless unprotected orphan. To remain here after what has passed, is impossible ; for I should think myself culpable, by exposing myself to a repetition of such infamous proposals ; therefore I trust your Lordship will give me the address to the person who has my father’s remittance, that I may apply to him for advice and protection.”

“ You shall be obeyed,” exclaimed Lord V—— ; “ but let me entreat you not to leave Lady V——. Impute what has passed to the frenzy of the moment, and I promise, in future, never to renew

a subject which has so displeased you. I will immediately find Lady G——, and make such a representation of our meeting as shall entirely clear you from any suspicion."

He seemed so sincerely sorrow for having offended her, that she hoped, in future, he would be ashamed of again molesting her; but she was truly miserable. Godolphin was to go that evening, and she would then have no one whom she could consult. She was so thoroughly disgusted with Lord V——, that she resolved, as soon as she could fix on some plan, to leave a house which now had become disagreeable to her, from the various insults which she had received from the inhabitants.

Lord V—— had certainly spoken to his sister, for, when they met, she addressed Angelina more kindly than she had done for some time; and she fancied all the females looked on her

with more complacency than usual. She now seldom left her own apartment but to attend Lady V——; she was fearful of having another private interview with his Lordship. She was most anxious to know the address of her father's agent, that she might write to him, candidly state her situation, and request that he would find some eligible family with whom she might reside, as she was perfectly decided to leave her present place of abode; but how to obtain the direction she did not know. At last she determined to ask Lady Matilda to apply for it, and she promised that she would: she then told Angelina that Augustus would come into the North the following week. This intelligence was very agreeable to the orphan, as she resolved upon telling him that she should leave Clare Hall, and she was glad of an opportunity of consulting him respecting her future destination.

He met her with that animated satisfaction with which he always accosted her, but expressed his astonishment at seeing her look so dejected. He was sincerely concerned at her determination of quitting the protection of his aunt; but he allowed, that remaining under the same roof with Lord V—— was improper, and, as she must leave them, it was desirable that she should apply to Major Dalrymple's agent, and abide entirely by his opinion. The great difficulty was to make some plausible excuse for leaving Lady V——, and this was a very difficult point to do; for, although that lady did not treat her with the affection which she formerly did, yet she could not reasonably find fault with her behaviour; and, as Lady V—— knew that she had no connections, she would naturally wonder at her wishing to remove from her protection.

She was pondering on her future pro-

spects, and reflecting on her unhappy situation, when she heard the clock strike one. A noise arrested her attention, and the door of her dressing-room opened. She arose with precipitation, and had scarcely reached the center of the room when she saw Lord V—— enter.

“ Do not be alarmed, Angelina : I come as a friend, and you have nothing to fear from this unseasonable visit. I came at this hour, because I wish to advise you respecting your future plans ; and in the daytime our innocent conference might meet with interruption, which might render you liable to the jealous suspicions of Lady V——.”

“ Indeed, my Lord, you terrify me ; for, should it be known that you are here, of course, and with apparent reason, I should be blamed.”

“ How is it possible, my dear Miss Dalrymple, that this visit should ever

be known? All the family are in bed, and I frequently sit up to write till a much later hour than this. My motive for coming was to know for what reason you desired Matilda to get the agent's direction. If you have any communication to make, I will do it with pleasure; but I hope that the conversation which so displeased you the other day is buried in oblivion, for, rest assured, it will never be repeated."

"I hope not, my Lord: consequently we will drop the wretched subject; and I shall be obliged to you for the agent's address, as I wish to gain from him every intelligence I can respecting my father."

As she finished the word, Lady V—— opened the door:

"Angelina! is it possible that you can be such an ungrateful impostor? Till this moment, not all that has been told me could induce me to believe

you culpable. Unfortunate, unhappy girl ! So young, to be so deceitful and so wicked !”

“ Indeed, my Lady, I am innocent !”

But her Ladyship had disappeared. Lord V—— did all he could to comfort the orphan ; but she was insensible to all he said, and she continued for several hours in fits. None of the ladies attended ; only the physician and female servants.

The next day the orphan was so ill as to be incapable of rising ; at length, nature being quite exhausted, she slept for six hours successively, but with such agitation as rather to impair than recruit her strength. Although totally unfit for a journey, she determined to leave the North immediately, and mentioned her wishes to the servant, and requested her to ask Lord V—— for the agent’s address. The answer returned was, that his Lordship had writ-

ten to the gentleman, and in a few hours, as he had sent an express, expected an answer. The servant put into her hand the following letter, enclosing a bank note for a hundred pounds :—

“ To convey to you any idea of my sorrow at finding you undeserving of my regard, is totally impossible. Unhappy girl ! most sincerely do I pity you. Reflect, before it is too late, and return to the path of innocence and truth. My affection for you, Angelina, was that of a fond parent, and I cannot divest myself totally of feeling an interest in your welfare. The same sum as is here enclosed you will receive annually ; and I have written to my housekeeper in Cavendish Square to procure you a safe and respectable retreat ; therefore it now depends on yourself, whether you will accept of competence and a life of virtue, or fly to affluence ac-

accompanied with vice. Here all intercourse between us must end.

“ ARMINDA V——.”

The generosity and sensibility which these lines evinced penetrated the poor orphan's heart : she most affectionately loved Lady V——. But Angelina had too much pride to accept of any pecuniary obligation from a person who could for a single moment accuse her of the most horrible of crimes, and she was too proud to stoop to make any explanation of the event which had caused such cruel and unjust suspicions ; she therefore resolved to return the note in a blank cover, and to leave every ornament which had been presented to her by Lord V——. She was packing up her clothes the following evening when Lord V—— knocked at and opened her door : she started at seeing him.

“ Be not alarmed, I entreat you, my

dear Miss Dalrymple ! I come to put into your hands the letter which I have this moment received, and I trust the contents will answer your wishes. Rest assured that I will do every thing in my power to clear up the unfortunate business which deprives us of your society ; and, as Lady V—— is open to conviction, I have no doubt but in a few months she will solicit your return, and make every atonement for her unjust behaviour.”

Angelina read the letter, in which the agent regretted, that, as his wife was on a visit in Devonshire, he could not with propriety offer the young lady a residence in his house ; but that he had spoken to a widow lady who had two daughters and some nieces residing with her, and that she would accommodate the orphan ; that he would meet Miss D—— at the coach-office, and conduct her to Mrs. Snap’s. This intelligence was very

agreeable to her, and she decided upon setting out in two days, as the medical gentleman assured her that, if she undertook a journey before that period, she would be laid up on the road.

She felt much hurt at not having heard any thing from Augustus: surely he knew her principles too well to suppose that she merited the scandalous reports circulated to her disadvantage; and he must be aware, that, in her present unprotected state, the smallest attention from a beloved object would be a great consolation.

As she got into the chaise which was to convey her to the neighbouring town from whence the stage set off, the groom put into her hand these lines:—

“THE melancholy intelligence which compels me to leave this place in such a hurry, prevents my taking leave of you; but, from the whispering and

consternation which every where presents itself to my view, I have reason to dread that something extraordinary has occasioned your departing so abruptly : let me, therefore, entreat that you will address a few lines to me at Oxford, informing me of the place of your residence, as rest assured that you have an unalterable friend in your devoted

“ AUGUSTUS DAVENPORT.”

Angelina did not peruse the contents of this billet till she was in the chaise : it afforded her great satisfaction to be convinced that Davenport had not forsaken her, nor was prejudiced against her. She could not conceive what the melancholy event was which had occasioned his leaving Clare Hall ; but she determined not to have any correspondence with him till her character was cleared of the dreadful sin of adultery, and she resolved not to go to the housekeeper,

as Lady V—— had requested, but to remain with Mrs. Snap till she could ascertain what her future prospects promised from the agent.

It was the first time that she had been in a public conveyance ; but, as she had only eighty pounds, she thought it advisable not to run into any unnecessary expence ; and Lord V—— pointed out that conveyance as more eligible than for a young lady to travel alone in a post-chaise : but Angelina, who had never been accustomed to associate with the vulgar, felt very uncomfortable, as her companions consisted of an ensign in the militia, a rider belonging to a merchant's house in the city, a grazier, and a methodist parson and his wife.

From the orphan's accent, they soon perceived that she was a foreigner, and they all asked if Miss was a French woman : she answered in the affirmative ; when they pestered her with such ridicu-

lous questions, as, for a short time, dissipated her melancholy ideas ; such as, if the cattle in foreign parts were like those before them ; they supposed she had lived chiefly upon frogs and outlandish dishes ; and that she had never seen a good piece of roast beef and a plum-pudding till she came amongst the John Bulls. The militia officer assured Mr. Gripe the grazier that he was mistaken, and, if he dined at the tables of the great, he would see as many kick-shaws as in France ; and that he had no doubt but Miss had seen a joint of meat before she left her own country.

Mr. Gripe said, he wished all the French would remain on the other side the water, for he liked none of the tribe. The rider assured the company that he often had dealings with them, and that they treated him with the greatest politeness, and, if they remained in France, it would be a great detriment to trade :

“ But none to the church,” replied the methodist preacher, “ for they are all papists ; and are so uncharitable, that they think that all hereticks must go to the devil :—don’t you, Miss ?”

This was a subject on which the orphan did not chuse to enter, but gave an evasive answer. The officer was very gallant, and endeavoured to speak French ; but his was only an attempt, for it was impossible to understand him. He offered to pay for Angelina, but she would not condescend to be treated. He was anxious to know in what part of London she was going to reside ; but, even had she wished to inform him, she could not, being herself ignorant. The rider insisted upon having the best of every thing ; and he was so well known at the inn, that great attention was paid to his orders.

They were to sleep two nights on the road ; and, as the preacher’s wife seem-

ed to be a respectable woman, the orphan requested that she would let her have a room through her's, for she never more sensibly experienced the alteration in her situation, than being exposed to the gallantry of such vulgar people. The rider saw her distress, and offered his services in speaking to the mistress of the house to procure her a comfortable bed.

“ I am an old married man, Miss, and have daughters grown up ; therefore accept of my services.”

She thanked him, but stuck close to her female companion.

The three days she passed in such company was very distressing : at first, the novelty of scene occupied her attention ; but the continuance of their illiberal remarks and questions disgusted her, and she was heartily rejoiced when they arrived at the end of their journey.

Mr. Moffat was ready to receive her ;

he was a genteel-looking man, and his white head gave him a respectable appearance. He ordered some refreshment, after which he conducted her to Mrs. Snap's. But the bloated face of that lady disgusted Angelina, and the flip-pant appearance of her nieces and daughters did not alter the orphan's prepossession. Being extremely fatigued, she retired early to bed; but she could get no rest, from the noise and confusion which reigned in the house.

To her great surprise, when she arose in the morning, not any person was visible, excepting a dirty girl who was clearing a parlour which abounded with bottles and glasses. The orphan inquired at what time they breakfasted.

“Quite uncertain, Miss: it depends upon what hour the ladies go to bed.”

Angelina thought this very strange, but she returned to her room; and about eleven o'clock Cecilia Snap came to an-

nounce that breakfast was ready. Only the old lady and Cecilia attended, and Mrs. Snap made apologies for the lateness of the hour, and the noise which must have disturbed her guest; but a nephew of her's, who was a lieutenant in the navy, had just come to London, after an absence of three years: he had brought some of his friends with him, and the young people had begun dancing, and did not give over till very late.

Angelina requested to know what she was to pay for her accommodation; but Mrs. Snap would not come to any explanation on that subject, saying that Mr. Moffat was an old friend of her's, and that he would settle that business. She then told the orphan, that, when she liked to walk out, Cecilia would go with her, and that the drawing-room she might appropriate to her own use.

Mr. Moffat came, and Angelina asked

him several questions respecting her father ; but he gave such evasive answers, that she could not gain any satisfaction. He said that he had three thousand pounds in his hands, the interest of which she might have.

Angelina then fully explained the reason which had induced her to leave Clare-Hall, and her determination to accept no pecuniary obligation from Lord V——. Mr. Moffat looked dejected ; said that he would consider what could be done ; that he was going out of town ; and that, at any rate, he would leave her some money, in case she might want it before his return. She declined this offer, but requested that he would make some agreement with Mrs. Snap : this he promised, and took his leave, saying that he should return within a fortnight.

At dinner, Angelina's dislike to the family she was with increased : the boldness of their manners was what she had

not been used to, and the fulsome compliments they paid her were very distressing to her nice feelings.

In the evening some gentlemen arrived who were all relations of Mrs. Snap's, or her nieces the Miss Catch's. The freedom of their behaviour astonished Angelina: they eyed her with evident symptoms of surprise, and paid a respect to her, while they treated the rest with great familiarity. They wanted to accompany her to the play; but her spirits were too dejected to enjoy any public amusement. She had it in contemplation to write to Godolphin; but her delicacy prevented her doing so, as she could not bear to tell him that she had been dismissed by Lady V——, and her character traduced. She possessed so many resources in herself, that she could bear retirement without repining; and, as the family she resided with were constantly engaged in pursuit of pleasure,

she had full opportunity of devoting her time to music, reading, and drawing. She wrote to the few friends she possessed abroad, and constantly attended the Ambassador's chapel.

Three weeks had elapsed since she had seen Mr. Moffat, and she began to be anxious for his return, for her companions became every day more obnoxious to her. She had only been twice out since her arrival in town, and was each time accompanied by Cecilia; but so many people accosted them whom Angelina did not know, and with such an air of familiarity, that she was extremely averse to going out; consequently she refused attending any of the ladies when they took their morning walks; indeed, she seldom mixed with the family but at meals: but they so strongly pressed her to join them in an excursion to Hampton Court, that she could not refuse, without being guilty of great

rudeness. All their male relations were to be of the party, and they were to go in open carriages. Angelina was to be driven by Capt. Herbert of the navy : he had been several times in her company, and behaved with more gravity than the rest of the gentlemen.

It was of a Sunday, and, as they drove through the Park, she observed that their party attracted universal notice : she saw Lady V——'s mother, the Duchess of B——, who looked at our heroine with evident astonishment. Soon after she saw some more of the company whom she had known the winter before : they all stared at her, but did not return her bow.

Captain Herbert asked her how she became acquainted with those persons : she said at a friend's house, where she had been staying ; but she did not mention the name, lest it should lead to some inquiries which it might be painful for her to answer.

Capt. Herbert appeared lost in thought for some time.

“ Can she be really ignorant !” he exclaimed.

“ Was you speaking to me, Sir?” said the orphan.

“ Not exactly ; but, if it is not trespassing too much on your goodness, may I request to know how you became an inmate of Mrs. Snap’s ?”

“ Most undoubtedly,” she replied. “ My father, if he still exists, is in India, and his agent placed me under the care of Mrs. Snap till his wife returns from Devonshire, when I have reason to hope I shall reside with them.”

“ And, pray, who is the gentleman who takes such an interest in your concerns ?”

“ Mr. Moffat ; and I expect every day either to hear from or see him. To confess the truth, I am uneasy at his silence ; for the pursuits of the ladies I am with

are so different from mine, that we are not sufficiently assimilated to be agreeable companions to each other, and I wish to have a more retired home."

"Assuredly, Miss Dalrymple, the one you now inhabit is not a fit residence for a virtuous young woman."

Angelina, at this moment, saw Godolphin in his curricie with a beautiful young lady.

"Surely that is Mr. Godolphin!—I would give the world to speak with him!"

"You are, then, acquainted with that gentleman?"

"He is, Sir, an invaluable friend."

"He is a happy man, to excite such emotion in your countenance; and I will tell him of his good fortune."

"If you would inform him where I reside, you would indeed do me a great service, for I want to consult him, and to have his advice."

"You may rely, Madam, on seeing

him to-morrow. But he is a very young man, and the place I met you in altogether makes me doubt your character. Yet there is an ingenuous openness in your manner that almost induces me to believe that you are innocent."

"Innocent!" repeated Angelina: "what do you, what can you mean?"

"An involuntary exclamation!" replied Captain Herbert: "think no more of it."

They alighted at the Toy-Inn, and were soon surrounded by their friends, all of whom were in violent spirits. Dinner was ordered, and the ladies and gentlemen made so free with the bottle, that the orphan feared they would soon feel the effects of their folly. When they were sufficiently regaled, they all went to the palace; and, to her great delight, the first person she met was Godolphin with the lady she had before seen. He looked at her, just bowed, and

passed with precipitation. What could be the reason of such conduct from him? Surely he did not credit the reports respecting her and Lord V——.

Her spirits were so depressed and agitated, that she burst into tears. Capt. Herbert looked extremely distressed at seeing her in such affliction. The young ladies did all in their power to comfort her; while Mrs. Snap called to Capt. Herbert, with whom she had a long conversation.

The rest of the party passed the day apparently much to their satisfaction; but Angelina could not even assume any degree of cheerfulness. The gentlemen rallied her, but Capt. Herbert kept them in order. She returned with him, and he took care not to mention, during their ride, any thing which could lead to any interesting subject.

As they drove to St. James's Place, he thanked her for the pleasure of her

company, and told her that he would find out Godolphin, and he had no doubt but she would soon see him: "He is," he continued, "my most intimate friend."

The orphan expressed herself obliged to him for his kind intentions, and immediately retired to her apartment. The next day she requested Mrs. Snap to tell her where Mr. Moffat resided, as she wished to inquire at his house when he was expected. The lady said that she knew he would be in town that day, as she had promised to meet him and his lady at the play.

"You, of course, Miss Dalrymple, will attend me."

She was much averse to it, as she anxiously expected to see Godolphin, and was fearful he might call in her absence; but she also was impatient to be introduced to Mrs. Moffat, and to leave a residence which she could not help

thinking was not a reputable one; she therefore consented. They sat in the upper boxes, and she was scarcely seated before she saw in the stage-box Lady G——, her daughters, and Augustus in deep mourning; and Godolphin, with the young lady she had seen with him, were also of the party. They all fixed their eyes on our heroine; and Lady G——, with a sarcastic smile, spoke to Davenport, but none of them took the smallest notice of the orphan. She asked Mrs. Snap when they might expect to see Mr. and Mrs. Moffat.

“Immediately,” she replied: “why, here he is.” But when Angelina looked round, the first person she saw was Lord V——: he addressed Mrs. Snap as an old friend, and she appeared delighted at seeing him. As to the orphan, she was so confused and distressed, that for some time she had not the power of articulation.

As soon as she could collect herself, she entreated Mrs. Snap to let her go home; and her agitation was so great, that that lady thought it advisable to grant her request.

Lord V—— behaved to her with the most profound respect; but all her entreaties could not prevent Mrs. Snap from making use of his Lordship's carriage. She refused entering it; but a mob was collecting; and at last, more dead than alive, Angelina flung herself into it.

Lord V—— and Mrs. Snap were so rejoiced at having met after an absence, as they said, of several years, that she insisted upon his staying supper. This was extremely disagreeable to the orphan, and she resolved to remove from King's Place the next day, and that she would not stay even that evening in his company. But, on entering, a scene she little expected awaited her: they

were scarcely entered before his Lordship informed Angelina that Mr. Mof-fat was a convenient dependant of his ; that the persons she was with were such as were subservient to his will ; and that she was entirely in his power, for her character was so injured in the opinion of the world, that she could never again be received in virtuous society ; that he adored her, and was willing to place her in such a situation as her beauty and accomplishments merited ; that he would swear to marry her whenever Lady V—— died : in short, he gave her to understand, that, if she would not consent willingly to his proposal, he was determined to compel her to accede to his wishes ; that he planned her going to the play, and that Lady G—— and family should see her. He told her he knew the partiality which she had for Davenport, but that he would not marry a woman whose cha-

racter was lost ; that his eldest brother had broken his neck in hunting ; that, now he was heir to an earldom, his father would not, even if her reputation was cleared of the imputations ascribed to her, consent to his marrying a Catholic ; therefore he concluded with,

“ My dearest love ! you see you have no alternative than to make me and yourself happy, by putting yourself under my protection.”

This discourse roused Angelina, and, with a dignity which astonished Lord V——, she assured him that she rejected his offer with the greatest contempt ; or, was she afraid of his threats, that she knew she was in a country whose laws protected the meanest subject ; consequently that even he, as a Peer of the realm, was accountable for his actions ; that she had a firm reliance on the mercy and goodness of her Creator, and that he would extend his bounty to an unprotected orphan.

He suffered her to depart without making any reply, and she resolved upon instantly leaving the infamous house which harboured such a nest of miscreants. She stepped out of the door, and took a hackney coach : she was at a loss to tell him where to drive, but she recollected where her shoe-maker resided, and she ordered the coachman to take her to his house. She saw his wife, and partly explained her situation. Their lodgings were vacant, and she took possession of them.

When she sat down and reflected upon her situation, she was almost distracted : she had not brought any thing away with her, excepting the ornaments she had on, and about three pounds in her pocket. These funds she knew would be of short duration, and where she was to get more she could not divine.

The shoe-maker's wife, seeing her distress, came to her, and insisted upon

her having some whey : she assured her that Mr. Last would get her clothes, &c. from Mrs. Snap's, as that woman would be afraid of having the affair made public.

Angelina endeavoured to compose her spirits, as her good sense pointed out that, in future, she must depend upon her own exertions for her support, and she bore her distress with astonishing fortitude ; but, when she reflected that Davenport and Godolphin had seen her in such profligate society, she was indeed miserable.

Sleep, at last, buried her sorrows in oblivion, and she awoke at a late hour, more refreshed than she expected. Mr. Last had applied for her property, but without success : he assured her that, by applying to Bow-street, she would meet with redress ; but, as Mr. Last informed her that a female desired to speak with her, she flattered herself that Mrs. Snap's

servant had brought her clothes ; she therefore desired that she might be introduced.

An immense creature entered, and presented Angelina a paper, at the same time telling her she was his prisoner, for it was a man. In a few minutes two more men entered ; and to describe the poor orphan's terror is totally impossible. She clung to Mrs. Last for protection. The benevolent shoe maker offered to bail her ; but the *legal* ruffians said it was too late to search the courts, and consequently she must go with them. She was arrested, at the suit of Mrs. Snap, for the amount of 400*l*.

Her distress was so great, that even the bailiffs shewed the greatest compassion, and assured her, if their directions had not been expressly to take her into custody, that they would have taken Mr. Last's word for her appearance ; but they should lose their places

if they did not follow implicitly their instructions. After remaining some hours, Mrs. Last accompanied Angelina to a spunging-house.

What stronger breast-plate than a heart untainted?
'Thrice is he arm'd that hath his quarrel just;
And he but naked, though lock'd up in steel,
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

CHAP. VI.

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd ;
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow ;
Raze out the written troubles of the brain ;
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the foul bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart ?

AFTER Angelina had left Clare Hall, Lady V——'s servant delivered to her the blank cover which the orphan had left, enclosing the 100*l.* note ; also a small box, containing all the presents which had been given her by Lord V——. Her Ladyship was much affected and pleased at this, and communicated to Lady G—— the circumstance ; but that lady, for many reasons, was glad the orphan was removed from a family in which she was so be-

loved, as she feared her influence would every way be prejudicial to her children.

Although Lady V—— had a tincture of jealousy in her composition, and that she certainly had seen Lord V—— in Miss Dalrymple's dressing-room at a very improper time, yet she still doubted her being culpable; and her Ladyship's own woman, who had resided many years with her, so powerfully pleaded for Angelina, that Lady V——, if she had not been prevented by her sister-in-law, would have sent an express to fetch the orphan back. Lord V—— never mentioned her, and, of course, none of the family addressed him on the subject.

As soon as it was generally known that Miss Dalrymple had left the Hall, all the villagers, the old, the young, and the lame, came for her address, all praying for blessings on her head, as she had left with the gardener money to be

distributed amongst her pensioners. As Lady V—— was stepping into her carriage, this group approached the house. She was extremely affected at their behaviour, and involuntarily exclaimed, “Is it possible that Angelina can be culpable !”

On her return from her morning’s airing, she deputed her woman to go to Cavendish Square, see Miss Dalrymple, and endeavour to prevail on her to return to Clare Hall. The lady’s maid went but a few posts, and brought the distressing intelligence that Miss Dalrymple had never appeared in Cavendish Square, nor did any one there know where she was. Lady V—— now was at a loss what to think ; but she felt so uneasy on the occasion, and the country became so dull, that she proposed returning to London much sooner than she was accustomed to do ; and, as Lord M—— had met his end in a fox-

chase, it was necessary that Lord and Lady G—— should immediately repair to town.

The first intelligence that Lady V—— heard of the orphan was from the Duchess of B—— : she mentioned having seen her with a strange party, and inquired why she had left Lady V—— ; but that lady still felt such an interest in the fate of Angelina, that she as much as possible evaded the subject.

Augustus was perfectly wretched, and had done every thing in his power to discover her residence: he assured his aunt that she was imposed on, for that Miss Dalrymple was incapable of doing a bad action ; and he so strenuously espoused her cause, that his mother was extremely displeased with him.

The family had been three weeks in town, when Godolphin one evening called in Cavendish Square: he inquired for Miss Dalrymple, and, when he learnt

that she had left the protection of Lady V——, he became perfectly pale from agitation, and abruptly left the room, followed by Davenport, to whom he mentioned having seen her that morning in such company as surely, if she knew their characters, she would not associate with. The gentlemen determined to search every where for our heroine, and they laid such plans as they thought would prove successful.

Godolphin promised to bring his sister to dine with Lady V—— the next day: as she had never before been in London, they proposed going to the play; but the first object on entering the theatre which attracted their notice was Angelina. Lady G—— turned to her son with a malicious smile, and pointed out the orphan, saying, “I hope now, my Lord M——, you are convinced of the morals of that virtuous young lady.”

Godolphin caught the last words. "Virtuous young lady!" he repeated, "that I will swear she is; and those who have exposed her to the machination of the wicked have much to answer for. Lord M——, if you will take care of the ladies, I will find Miss Dalrymple, and tell her who are her present friends."

He instantly left the box, but, when he went to the one in which he had seen the orphan, all the party were gone: he then ran to the Piazza, and arrived just as she entered Lord V——'s carriage, and to see his Lordship follow.

Godolphin was perfectly amazed; he could hardly believe his senses. That Miss Dalrymple should voluntarily place herself under Lord V——'s protection, he could not believe. He got into a hackney coach, and desired the man to follow the carriage; and, when he saw our heroine enter King's Place, his feel-

ings almost deprived him of recollection. He went to Mrs. Snap's, who received him very politely, and he was in conversation with her when Angelina fled from the house. To express his rage when he found that she was gone, is beyond the power of language. Lord V—— was informed of his being there, and thought proper to conceal himself till he was departed. Godolphin immediately left a note for Davenport to meet him the next morning, and at an early hour the next day they commenced their search for the orphan, but without any success.

Lord V—— was at home, and, to all appearances, perfectly composed. Lady V—— had been informed by her sister respecting Angelina's appearance at the play. The intelligence had the most fatal effects on her Ladyship: she had violent hystericks, and for many hours remained in this alarming situa-

tion. Lord M—— still persevered in taking the orphan's part, and declared, if they did not gain some intelligence of her the next day, that they would apply to the police, to make Mrs. Snap produce the object of their search.

Accordingly, the second morning, they again visited King's Place, when they were joined by Captain Herbert, who was expostulating with the frail sister, and joined his friends in protesting that she should be made an example of, if she did not inform them where Angelina was. They spoke to her in such a peremptory manner, that she became frightened, and assured them, on her life, that she was ignorant of the place of her abode, as she had left her house, and had not even taken her clothes. She confessed that it was a plan of Lord V—— to get her into his clutches, but that she believed that she had now evaded his pursuit.

Godolphin and Herbert went instantly in search of Lord V——. Godolphin insisted upon his Lordship informing him where Miss Dalrymple was. Lord V—— treated the subject with the greatest derision, representing that she had long been his mistress, and that now she would soon appear publicly in that light.

Godolphin's rage got the better of his reason, and he struck his Lordship, at the same time telling him that he did not speak the truth. This insult, according to the laws of honour, must be resented, and it was decided that in one hour they should have a meeting. Not considering whether it is permitted us to make a deliberate attempt on the life of any man, to satisfy a preposterous and mistaken notion, which has neither foundation in reason nor nature, the duellists do not give themselves time to consider whether the melancholy

reflection of the blood spilt on such an occasion can cease to cry out for retribution from him who spilt it: and, in general, what do they resent?—that the lie has been given, and most frequently from a falsehood having been asserted; therefore they call heaven to witness the truth of a lie, and impiously implore the assistance of their Maker to support the cause of injustice, and give the triumph to falsehood.

At the appointed hour the gentlemen met, accompanied by their seconds and a surgeon. A few minutes decided the business. Lord V—— received a wound which was considered mortal, and was conveyed to the Thatched House, while Godolphin and Captain Herbert absconded till the fate of his Lordship was decided.

It was some days before Lady V—— knew the extent of her misery, as excuses were made of her Lord's ab-

sence ; but, when the medical gentlemen gave hopes of his recovery, by degrees the melancholy intelligence was communicated to her. She repaired to Lord V—— : he was still in a deplorable state, and thought his end fast approaching ; he therefore requested to be left with his wife and sister, when he lamented his past conduct, and expressed his great anxiety respecting Angelina, who, he assured them, was every way deserving of their admiration and friendship ; that he did not know where she was, but he had reason to believe she had been arrested at the suit of Mrs. Snap.

Lady G—— was thunderstruck at this news, which was by no means agreeable to her ; while Lady V—— silently offered up her grateful thanks to that Being who had protected the fair orphan, and was impatient to find out where she was, that, by her kindness and attention, she might in some

degree compensate for the misery which she had endured.

Davenport had always continued indefatigable in his search, and he at last concluded that she must have left town. What added to his consternation was, that Mrs. Snap and her myrmidons had all absconded from their late residence, and no traces of them could be obtained.

Lord V—— recovered very slowly, and was likely to be a cripple for life; but he was so ashamed of his conduct, which had gained publicity, that he sent for Godolphin, and not only forgave him, but made apologies for his conduct. Charles could not follow his example: he loved Angelina, and he loved virtue; therefore he could never feel reconciled to a man who had reduced the woman he loved to the most poignant distress.

Advertisements were put into the pa-

pers, offering a reward if any one could tell where Miss Dalrymple was ; but no good arose from this measure. The coachman who drove her to the shoemaker's informed them where he had driven a young lady answering the description in the public prints ; upon which, Lord Augustus M—— went to the shop, when he was informed that she had been arrested ; from which period they did not know what had become of her. He made himself known, and endeavoured by bribery and threats to induce Mrs. Last to discover Angelina, as he strongly suspected that she knew ; but all the information she gave was an address to the spunging-house where she had accompanied her.

He repaired to the place ; but so many hapless victims of poverty had been in the same miserable predicament with the orphan, that it was a considerable time before they could understand or would

comprehend whom he meant : all they could say was, that the lady had been taken away, but by whom, or where, they did not know. He then searched for the attorney, and waited upon Mr. Trick, who assured him that he could give no further light upon the subject than what Davenport already knew ; that he was desired to arrest one Angelina Dalrymple, at the suit of Mrs. Snap ; that the said Angelina Dalrymple was accordingly served with a warrant, and placed in security ; that the following day his expences were paid by Mrs. Snap, and the action withdrawn ; consequently he had no occasion to seek farther into the business, nor could he tell where Mrs. Snap and her *ladies* were gone, but he believed somewhere about Wapping.

Davenport returned home, tired and dispirited : it was repugnant to his feelings to meet his uncle, as he could only

look upon him with sentiments of aversion and disgust; but his Lordship's recovery, the medical gentlemen said, was retarded by the anxiety of his mind, and Lady G—— entreated that her son would communicate to his Lordship every information he gained of the orphan. Alas! he had none to divulge; but his mother was so desirous that he should attend his uncle, that he complied with her request.

He was shocked at seeing the emaciated appearance of the patient; all his former vivacity was gone, and at that moment his repentance for his bad conduct was so sincere, that most willingly would he have parted with all he possessed to be assured that Miss Dalrymple was in safety. Feeble as he was, he sent for his solicitor, and consulted with him what method had best be adopted to ascertain the residence of the orphan. Mr. Quibble was himself a father, and

he felt forcibly for the situation of the unprotected Angelina; he therefore offered to accompany Lord Augustus M—— to Wapping, to take some Bow-street officers with them, and to make a strict search. Captain Herbert was also of the party, and he employed a press-gang to haunt every place for the orphan.

Three days successively they were employed in this occupation, without gaining the smallest success, when they met Cecilia Snap: she appeared extremely terrified; assured them that she had not seen Miss Dalrymple since that young lady left King's Place; that a gentleman had called on Mrs. Snap, and threatened her with imprisonment if she did not take Angelina out of arrest, but who the person was she did not know, as she had never seen him before nor since. The unhappy Cecilia added, that the miserable object of depravity and

vice, Mrs. Snap, had taken French leave, and left the girls absolutely starving, as she had robbed them of every thing. Cecilia implored their commiseration, and her prayers were attended to : she faithfully promised that she would do every thing in her power to find out Angelina ; but she firmly believed that the shoe-maker knew where she was, as the sheriff's officer told Mrs. Snap that Mr. and Mrs. Last did every thing in their power to comfort the miserable orphan ; offered to get bail for her ; and that they would keep her in their house till she could hear from some of her friends.

“ Blessings on them ! ” said Davenport ; “ they shall not go unrewarded in this world for their humanity . ”

Finding that their exertions in Wapping were not likely to prove successful, they once more went to Mr. Last's ; but both he and his wife continued to declare that they did not know any thing

of Angelina. They both exclaimed loudly against those who could act so basely by such a lovely young lady; but, whether they were great gentlefolks or not, they hoped it would come home to them.

Lady V—— continued mentally and bodily indisposed. This last act of her husband's had entirely destroyed the little regard she ever felt for him; and it was a heart-piercing reflection to her that she must pass the remainder of her days with such a depraved character. The Duchess of B—— laughed at her daughter's concern; represented that all fashionable men had such follies; and that a wise woman would look on affairs of gallantry as matters of course.

Lady V—— heard with deep concern these opinions of her mother: she saw her aged parent fast sinking into the grave, after passing a life of disgrace and anxiety, without repentance; and

even with a hardened effrontery speak of her former gallantries to the child who had innocently been involved in guilt from her mother's depravity. Expostulation on the subject was of no avail, as the Duchess confessed that she never had, never did, and never would, trouble herself about religion. "Indeed, I think it," she would say, "only a political institution, to keep the vulgar in subjection:" and, when Lady V—— would endeavour to argue the point,

"In pity, my dear good woman," she would say, "desist. I have reason; and can you suppose that I can place any serious reflections on the marriage ceremony, or look to the breaking the solemn vow then taken as a crime, when I see the first persons in the kingdom, those whom the community are to look up to for their laws, religion, and principles, every day infringing on what

you call the sacred rights of matrimony, and the legislature making or annulling marriages as suits the politics of the times? Indeed, my pious Lady V——, if I am spared a few years longer, I have no doubt but I shall see bigamy tolerated; and, as to Crim. Con., no man is now considered of consequence till his name is blazoned in Doctors' Commons."

Lady V—— sighed: her mother's ideas of religious and moral duties did not accord with her's. She looked to a blessed hereafter to reward her for all her troubles in this life; and her happiness was much embittered in thinking that the only parent she had ever known should be unworthy in every respect of her regard.

Three months elapsed without any news of the orphan, and they concluded that she had left England. Augustus had got a duplicate of the papers which

were committed to her care by Mr. Vanneck, and he wrote to that gentleman to have diligent search made for Angelina, also to Paris. He would have gone to Bourdeaux himself, but his father and mother would not allow him. Indeed, they were averse to his marrying the orphan ; and, as he was now heir to his uncle, they concluded, if she was found, that they must either accede to his wishes, or break with Lord and Lady V——, as they intimated frequently that a union between Davenport and Angelina was the wish nearest their hearts.

His Lordship's sisters had no objection to this, for they really liked Miss Dalrymple as well as they could like any one. But they were quite young ladies of fashion: they had their feelings perfectly at command, as well as their affections, which they never placed on improper objects, always looking to the main chance.

Godolphin, in their opinion, would be an eligible match; and, if Angelina was married, they might stand some chance with that gentleman. As it was, he was quite in a desponding state, nor was his sister much better: she had been reared far from the purlieus of a court, and possessed that ingenuous simplicity of character which is the greatest beauty in a female. She sympathised with her brother: she had never known Miss Dalrymple, but she was convinced that she was an amiable unprotected girl, who had been wantonly traduced and exposed to every misery and danger. She felt for her, and was anxious to pour into her lacerated heart the balm of disinterested friendship.

END OF VOL. I.





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